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Smallwood Store clothing contest winner, page 24.



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Seminoles Found On Andros



FAMILY TIES: (L-R) Rev. B. A. Newton, Solomon Bowlegs, James Billie, Perky Lightbourne.

By Peter B. Gallagher

RED BAYS, ANDROS — Descendents of Seminole Indians, adventurers who fled tyranny by sailing dugout canoes east from South Florida in the 1800s, have been found on the northern tip of this idyllic Bahamaian isle by Seminole Tribe of Florida Chairman James Billie, recently.

"This brings to reality a legend I have heard about all my life," said an excited Chairman Billie, who first connected with the ex-patriate Seminole descendents via the Internet. On April 5, he flew to Andros and traveled to the tiny settlement of Red Bays. "I was told there were people who tied canoes together and rode into the Caribbean never to return. But there was never a year attached to it. I never knew if this happened in the 1400s, the 1600s or the 1800s. But now we know."

According to Red Bays resident Rev. Bertram A. Newton, Andros' chief historian — and a Seminole descendant himself — pirates and privateers of the 1800s first told the Seminole Indians about this "free land," 125 miles southeast of Fort Lauderdale. While a few Seminoles left for the islands in the 1820s, Rev. Newton says most came in the 1840s, when the government stepped up efforts to remove Indians from Florida and recapture escaped slaves:

"They left in small groups from the Everglades, from way down on Cape Sable. The pirates

See **ANDROS**, page 8

New Estimate: 60 –70 Animals Florida Panthers On Increase

"We've contributed a lot to restocking panthers."
— Jimmie McDaniel, Hunting Adventures

By Colin Kenny

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of Florida panthers over the years, according to a report by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

FWC now estimates the current panther population at 60-70 animals; anywhere from six to ten of these felines are full and part-time residents of the Big Cypress Reservation (including three or four radio collared females), says Darrell Land, head of the FWC's panther field research efforts in South Florida. Land said it's possible panthers also use the Brighton Seminole Reservation but the FWC has collected no data on that as of this date.

"There are definitely more Florida panthers today than there were when we first started this field work back in the early '80s," said Land. "It's a good feeling to know we have helped reverse the decline in the cats' population."

Twenty years ago the *Felis concolor coryi* estimate was closer to 30. The Panther is generally regarded as the most endangered mammal in North America. More than half of Florida's Seminoles are members of the Panther Clan.

See **PANTHER**, page 10

Tiger Hosts B.C. Meeting On Board Programs

By Janice Billie

BIG CYPRESS — Seminole Tribal Board Rep. Manuel "Mondo" Tiger held a short Community meeting at the Herman Osceola Gymnasium last Thursday. The basic agenda was to relay some announcements, impart some general information on two potential projects for Board investment and to answer any questions the community may have concerning the Board of Directors' arm of Seminole Tribal government.

"It's been stated that the Board doesn't do anything," Tiger said, adding that he hopes to dispel that notion by having more meetings and one-on-one discussions with Community members.

Tiger was very pleased to report that Donelda Mercer won the 1st Annual Board Hog Hunt. She bagged a 310-pound hog to outdistance the contestants. Tiger also

See **BOARD**, page 19

Cattle Drive Honors Early Cattlemen

By Dan McDonald

BIG CYPRESS — Rudy Osceola turned one final time in the saddle, dropped his arm and shouted "Move 'em out."

With that simple gesture an estimated 100 horseback riders kicked off the Fifth Annual Junior Cypress Cattle Drive on the Big Cypress Reservation March 24, driving a small herd of cattle 13 miles from the end of West Boundary Road to the Junior Cypress Rodeo and Entertainment complex.

"When we started this five years ago, I didn't think it would ever get this big," said Paul Bowers, who along with brother Richard and Moses Jumper Jr. — all cattlemen — conceived this event as a way of paying tribute to one of the original Seminole cattlemen.

"It really has taken off. This is the largest group we've ever had and I expect

more next year. It's really great the way this has taken hold."

For those on horseback — or riding alongside the herd on any number of vehicles — the thrill was experiencing a little taste of what it was like when Seminole cattlemen literally had to drive cattle to survive. Two men

See **CATTLE**, page 7



GENTLEMEN, START YOUR HORSES: Rudy moves 'em out.

Census Figures Don't Add Up

By Dan McDonald

HOLLYWOOD — The 2000 Census figures are in and at least in some cases the numbers don't quite add up as far as the Seminoles and Miccosukees are concerned. Among the questionable results released by the U.S. Census Bureau on March 27 are these:

- The Big Cypress Seminole Reservation population was listed as 142 individuals, with 110 as Indian.
- Fort Pierce Reservation has 2 residents — both white.
- Tampa Reservation, zero.
- The Miccosukee Tribe was listed as having zero members.
- The American Indian population for all Seminole reservations is only 1,239.

"I don't know how they came up with that figure for Fort Pierce Reservation," said Sally Tommie, the Fort Pierce Board and Council liaison. "No one lives on the Fort Pierce Reservation right now. It's just woods. We don't expect the first house to be completed there until July of 2002."

"Right now there are about 70 Tribal citizens living in Fort Pierce. I don't know how the Census Bureau came up with that figure, but there's a mistake somewhere."

James Holmes, Regional Director for the Bureau of the Census, Atlanta Regional office, said it was too soon to guess about why specific numbers are off.

"It would be premature for me to speculate about what went wrong with the counts,"

See **CENSUS**, page 19

Frey Hiring Factless ■ More Scare Tactics From Sentinel, County

By Libby Blake

KISSIMMEE — A March 28 story in the *Orlando Sentinel*, stating the Osceola County Commission was courting former U.S. Rep. Lou Frey (Republican) to join anti-casino lobbyist Dick Batchelor (Democrat) in a trumped up "fight" against the Seminole Tribe of Florida, has been proved false.

At a special Osceola County Commission meeting, held April 2 to consider Frey's hiring, only Commissioner Ken Smith came out in support of hiring the high-profile former Congressman. He found no support among his colleagues regarding Frey, one of Central Florida's most well-known political figures.

Osceola Commissioners have publicly accused the Seminoles of secretly planning a casino project on lands purchased by the Tribe near St. Cloud; Smith teamed up with reporter April Hunt in the March 28 story which carried the tag line: "Osceola commissioners want to beef up their anti-casino lobbying team in the wake of the Seminoles' land purchase."

Despite assurances from the Seminole Tribe that

See **FREY**, page 19

Nicaragua Questions Answered

By Charles Flowers and Janice Billie

HOLLYWOOD — Responding to controversy and confusion regarding Seminole Tribe affairs in Central America, Chairman James Billie, Government Operations Manager Tim Cox, Foreign Affairs' Director Calixto Garcia-Velez, and Controller Hugh Chang-Alloy appeared at a recent Community meeting here to present information to Tribal citizens about the Seminole Tribe's business interests in Nicaragua.

Chairman Billie described the move two years ago to invest in a cattle operation as part of an expansion of business opportunities in the war-torn region.

"I think Seminole Tribe ought to expand," said Chairman Billie. "Why did I pick Nicaragua? Nicaragua just got out of war. One time I was in a war some place called Vietnam, and the prices just fell. Not dirt cheap but they just fell."

"Once it falls, people are scared to come back in and if you can be one of the first people back in there with something — could be cattle, if we were really big enough it could be AT&T or Bell Telephone. When we got there two years ago, I think Bell telephone was just coming back . . . There's about a million people in Managua (the capital of Nicaragua) and if you took \$10,000 over there, \$10,000 dollars right now is like \$113,000. If you took \$100,000

See **NICARAGUA**, page 19

Jet Resurrection

By Charles Flowers

HOLLYWOOD — The deal to purchase a Gulfstream V jet is "not dead yet" according to Chairman James E. Billie.

Billie, speaking at a Hollywood Community meeting late last month, said the deal which was overturned by a 4-1 vote of the Tribal Council, could still be revived.

"That jet, it's not dead yet," Billie told Tribal citizens who had gathered to discuss a variety of financial concerns. "Because they (Gulfstream) told us 'you can pick it up in June.'"

The March 20 Council decision had apparently shot down the deal to purchase a Gulfstream V, which was tied to a separate agreement to sell the Tribe's smaller, existing Gulfstream IV corporate jet. The decision was to have immediately cost the Tribe \$3.5 million, according to Government Operations Officer Tim Cox.

However, when the smoke cleared one week later, Billie said, "it's not dead in the water. It's still there not because I wanted to, it's just the way the contract took off at the beginning. So we can still change our mind and work it."

"I would prefer to get that jet," Billie added, "pay for it in cash or do something and then resell it and don't lose any money."

See **JET**, page 3

Chief Teaches High School Canoe Class

By Peter B. Gallagher

GAINESVILLE — On a thunderstorm-swept March 29 afternoon, Seminole Chief Jim Billie braved the elements on a flight from Big Cypress to lecture high school and elementary school students about Seminole dugout canoes.

Keeping a promise made to Eastside High teacher Steve Everett several months ago, Chief Billie arrived a little late, but safe, after a bumpy flight aboard the Tribal Pilatus in which he bruised his ribs and banged his head during turbulence north of Tampa. "I learned a big lesson," he told students gathered in a large lecture room. "Always wear your seat belts . . . even when the weather's good! Or go by canoe."

Using a blackboard and various tools he brought on the trip, Chief Billie explained the intricacies of creating a water craft from a log. An un-shaved pine log and other props were provided by Everett, retired biologist Dale Crider and the Florida Museum of Natural History. Billie discussed the thickness of the sides, the weight and the length necessary for a seaworthy canoe and answered questions from students, including a group of fourth grade visitors from a nearby elementary school.

Famed canoe maker Henry John Billie of Big Cypress, still recuperating from a recent stroke, was not able to make the trip.

See **CANOE CLASS**, page 3

Editorial

An Uncomfortable Feeling

***Seminole Tribune**
It must have been exciting to watch. The thud of the 4th District Court of Appeals decision landing in the newsroom of the *St. Petersburg Times* and the immediate – at last! – Pulitzer-hungry rush to the phones by reporters soliciting “dirt” about the Seminole Tribal government, its leaders and its people.
The Court, as many know by now, affirmed the decision by the 17th Circuit Court dismissing the complaints filed by the Tribe against the Times Publishing Co. and reporters Brad Goldstein and Jeff Testerman. The word came down on March 21 and, like jittery greyhounds untethered, the bizarre race to investigate the Tribe by the *Times* began, in earnest, once again.
It goes like this: Phone calls to former employees. Pleas to current employees for embarrassing or classified documentation and informations. Fishing expeditions for disloyal employees or disenchanting Tribal citizens. Threats of publishing embarrassing personal informations about individual Tribal citizens. Rumor mongering. Back alley deals with hidden tape recorders. Information trading with the FBI and the IRS. The scary intimidation of a reckless press toward Tribal business associates, vendors and prospective partners. Interference in Tribal politics. Entrapment, surveillance, surreptitious photographs.
All this is accomplished beneath the umbrella of the precious First Amendment: Freedom of the Press. That’s what the courts have decided. Reading the opinion gives one that sort of creepy, uncomfortable feeling that permeates the air when the ACLU must clench its teeth and stand up for the rights of the Ku Klux Klan.
An examination of the tactics used and the information published in the *Times* during its insultingly titled December 1997 series, “Trail of Millions,” reveals an intention to hurt the Tribal government and its people — not enlighten the readership of a newspaper which proclaims itself, in ego-maniacal fashion, as

“Florida’s Best.” From writing letters begging trusted employees to steal trade secrets and publishing inaccurate, manipulated demographics to pummeling an innocent Tribal citizen about her illegitimate child, the *Times* has maintained a basement level of journalism that shocks even its peers in the industry.
Ho-lash-ko-wan. It is a lie.
The Court considered the *Times*’ effort an appropriate attempt by newspaper reporters to gather information. That point, however, was not alleged in the Tribe’s complaint. Nowhere in the Court’s opinion was there a mention of insidious news gathering techniques, including the solicitation of employees under a fiduciary relationship to steal documents and other data – a basis of the Tribe’s case against the newspaper and its reporters. The Court did print, without comment, the full text of the infamous letters written to Dr. Timothy Lozon and Pat Diamond – an inclusion certain to keep permanent burrs in the shoes of the *Times* and reporters Goldstein (no longer employed there) and Testerman.
The *Times* may have to temper its reporters’ glee, however. At least a while longer. Tribal Chairman James Billie, a main target of the original *Times* “investigation,” is undaunted by the unfavorable decision by the 4th District Court of Appeals. He has directed Legal Counsel Jim Shore and attorney Don Orlovsky to take this case to the next level – the United States Supreme Court. There, away from the glare of the hometown press and its intimidating lobby, perhaps, a clear examination of an out-of-control press can be aired.
There is no intention here to weaken the First Amendment, nor to prevent the ethical gathering of news. A favorable decision by the High Court would serve just protection to an American Indian tribal government and its innocent citizens, and strengthen a national press whose Florida brother has strayed way, way too far from his appointed rounds.
— *The Seminole Tribune is the official newspaper of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.*

letters/e-mail

Chief Billie:
I have to chime in about the Discover Native America Festival. I decided to attend Sunday in spite of the forecast of wind and rain, because Buffy Sainte-Marie was performing that day only. Buffy is one of the first folk singers I ever heard way back in the 1960s, and I didn’t want to miss this opportunity to see her perform. There were delays upon delays as the technical crew struggled to set up the main stage of what was supposed to be an outdoor venue in an auditorium.
Buffy, scheduled to take the stage at 3 p.m., did not come on till 5:30. However, the emcee, Don Burnstick, kept the crowd from getting too restless with his seemingly endless supply of Native American jokes and stories.
If ever a woman is timeless, it is Buffy Sainte-Marie. She looks like she has hardly aged at all in the decades since the ‘60s and continues to belt out those protest songs with conviction.
Her 90-minute set alone was worth my one hour drive each way. Buffy Sainte-Marie is truly a class act. The wild applause and standing ovation proved I was not alone in my assessment. Many thanks to Pete Gallagher and the Seminole Tribe for this truly phenomenal Native American event. Hoop dancer Lowery Begay was amazing! Ulali was wonderful as always. The barbecue pork on fry bread was so delish! Instead of rambling on and on, I will simply say that I departed the powwow with a smile on my face and a song in my heart.
Betty Phelps, Tampa, Prine43@aol.com

drinking, marijuana smoking, reckless driving and other crimes during the times of these disturbances. We don’t think the Tribe would want these activities reported to the media. Cease the unreasonable disturbances immediately or we will pursue until it is stopped. We believe that we all (Americans and Seminoles) want to feel safe and secure and enjoy a reasonable amount of peace and quiet in our own homes and neighborhoods. Your consideration and action to stop these disturbances is appreciated.
Cathy & Bill Gilmarti, HGilmarti@aol.com

same time not come off too didactic. I wanted, in the process of writing this fiction, to educate the young reader with the facts about the flora, fauna, nations, and death of the Everglades.
How can younger children, who are living in this century understand the death of the Everglades and Tribal life if they don’t know its birth and life which is being strangled before their adulthood?
On the day I set up my tent, I asked my brother, “Are we really in the Everglades? Then, where’s the boundaries for Weston, or Broward County now that Hollywood Boulevard goes all the way out to Flamingo where it’s all developed? Do they keep erasing the border line?” Shocked!
The novel is entitled: *Bordering On The Edge*. An aging Everglades Indian, who manages a Fort Lauderdale Beach hotel, recruits two young hotel guests to help him deliver ancient saw grass dust to the angry geo-gods. I have forwarded the manuscript to various teachers who have categorized the novel as fictional history/study unit/supplemental reading, i.e., history text can be dry and a fictional history novel can be used to “pull from.” “Pull from” means subjects are exposed in the novel about the Everglades formation, water control problems, extinction both in flora and fauna, Seminole Indian Wars, etc.
I would like to send the manuscript to a willing teacher at Ahfachkee. I’m sure the subject matter is common sense at Ahfachkee, but I’d like to make sure the facts are portrayed in an entertaining yet fairly accurate manner.
Connie Brightwell, Auteri, NY, cauteri@impop.bellatlantic.net



Che han tamo

Ee-che-bee
The Pointed Land.
Ee-che-bee (Deer Nose).
Land where the earth ends.
Land of Flowers, as the Spanish called it.
Florida is a place where I was born and my wakening eyes saw the Spanish moss, cypress trees, live oak and willow along the Dania Cut-off Canal in March of 1944. My ears heard the sounds of macaw parrots hissing at snakes and the screaming of chimpanzees. My nostrils took in smells of smoke from my grandmother’s cooking chickee.
Yes, I was born in a Dania, Florida tourist attraction. I learned the lucrative Florida tourism business at a very young age and it is in my blood to wrestle alligators or strum a guitar to entertain you for a nickel or two. Being a Seminole Indian created an air of mystique to my life and I have survived financially because of it.
Once they tried to make Seminoles leave our Florida. But, under the leadership of Aripeka (Ol’ Sam Jones also known as Abiaka), a few Indians moved into the unnavigable Florida swamps where the military could not find them. The 1750s to 1860s were a little rough at times but my Florida hid us well. When the Civil War came along, we were forgotten.
Unconquered, only a few of us remained. From 1860 until the early 1900s, we had time to re-establish our-
selves in our own ways, and learn how to survive in the Dominant Society.
In these trying years, my Florida provided my Seminoles with abundant food, fish, deer, panther, bear, various aquatic birds and many edible plants.
Though I was born in modern times, we still lived for many years in the ways of my grandfather. We were very poor, but I never knew it. Today, if I were to lose all my material possessions I can still survive the old Seminole way.
The other day I visited a lake ancient Seminoles called *Pithlachocco* (Where Boats Are Made). I walked along the dry lakebed where students had found nearly 100 canoes, most of them thousands of years old. It was surreal to touch these boats of my ancestors.
I have always known my people were around Florida and the Caribbean long before others arrived. That is how Florida embraces me. Those canoes tell me I have been here a long, long time. The unconquered Seminole is as old as *Pithlachocco*. That is my Florida.
Aripeka, Ol’ Sam Jones. *Sho-naa-bish.*
— *James E. Billie is Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. This essay was reprinted from the Spring issue of Florida History & The Arts Magazine, published by the Department of State.*



JAMES E. BILLIE

Chief Billie:
On the Hollywood Reservation, at the corner of S. R. 7 and Stirling Rd. every Friday and Sunday night they have been allowing very loud “bass” music to go on until 3 or 4 in the morning. It is our understanding that they leased their space to some Jamaican group - this is not confirmed though. Everytime we call the Seminole Police we are told they do not have a noise ordinance. These disturbances go beyond “noise.” They rattle our windows and glasses on our shelves; it is so disturbing that it makes it impossible to think, sleep, or do much of anything. And we live at least one-half mile west of the source. How dare the Seminole Tribe disturb the peace of so many of your neighbors!
We are starting a massive mailing and telephone campaign to stop this madness. If it is not stopped, we will initiate a boycott of all Seminole activities (bingo, festivals, rodeos, etc.). We do not think the Seminole Tribe has worked on improving their reputation only to have it ruined by these weekly disturbances of the peace. We have witnessed underage

Editor:
In the early ‘70s, your Chief and I used to hang out together either at the Seminole tourist attraction on Stirling and 441 or at the Seminole “66” on Griffin road and 441 where I worked. He introduced me to the Tribal ways. I frequented the reservation where I was accepted by the elders making their wares. I was also introduced to the wildlife as the Seminoles viewed it, including feeding the animals and working with the gators in the pit – life experiences that one will never forget. After my tour of duty with the U.S. Army, I lost contact with Jim, as he has gone onto bigger and better things for his people. I have been to the Casino in Tampa several times and see his picture on the wall with the rest of the Tribal officials. I have seen Jim on TV performing his folk music. And most of all in the *Florida Living Magazine*. It’s been almost 30 years, and I am just curious if the Chief still remembers back that far?
Rod Fletcher, Williston, rodf@worldnet.att.net

Editor:
Shocked! The new Learning Center, the Gymnasium, the School (well deserved . . . those trips to Clewiston had to stop!), the old Learning Center that will become the police station, the future buildings that will be in the hammock besides the existing Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.
I was born and raised in Florida. I grew up in Hollywood. Everything west of University Drive was no man’s land. Everglades 84 (I-595—I-75) and Alligator Alley were spooky roads to travel upon. In the 1980s rapid change began, of course, I don’t need to tell you. But for people who weren’t around in the 50s and 60s this metropolis west of University Drive to the Eastern Everglades’ border does not shock their souls like it does those who know it wasn’t always developed.
I was camping in the Everglades (actually, Markham Park) four years ago. Weston offended me so profoundly that I wrote a children’s novel. I wanted to write about the drastic change and at the

letters/e-mail



Chief Billie:
Hello James, on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida Hollywood Preschool Programs, we would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to pose for a picture with our three and four-year-old students. This will be a great picture for their classroom.
Dawn Marie Billie, Hollywood
... and for our newspaper (see above).

Editor:
When is the next Tribal election?
Jack Piccalo, Jacksonville
May 14, for Tribal Council and Board members only.

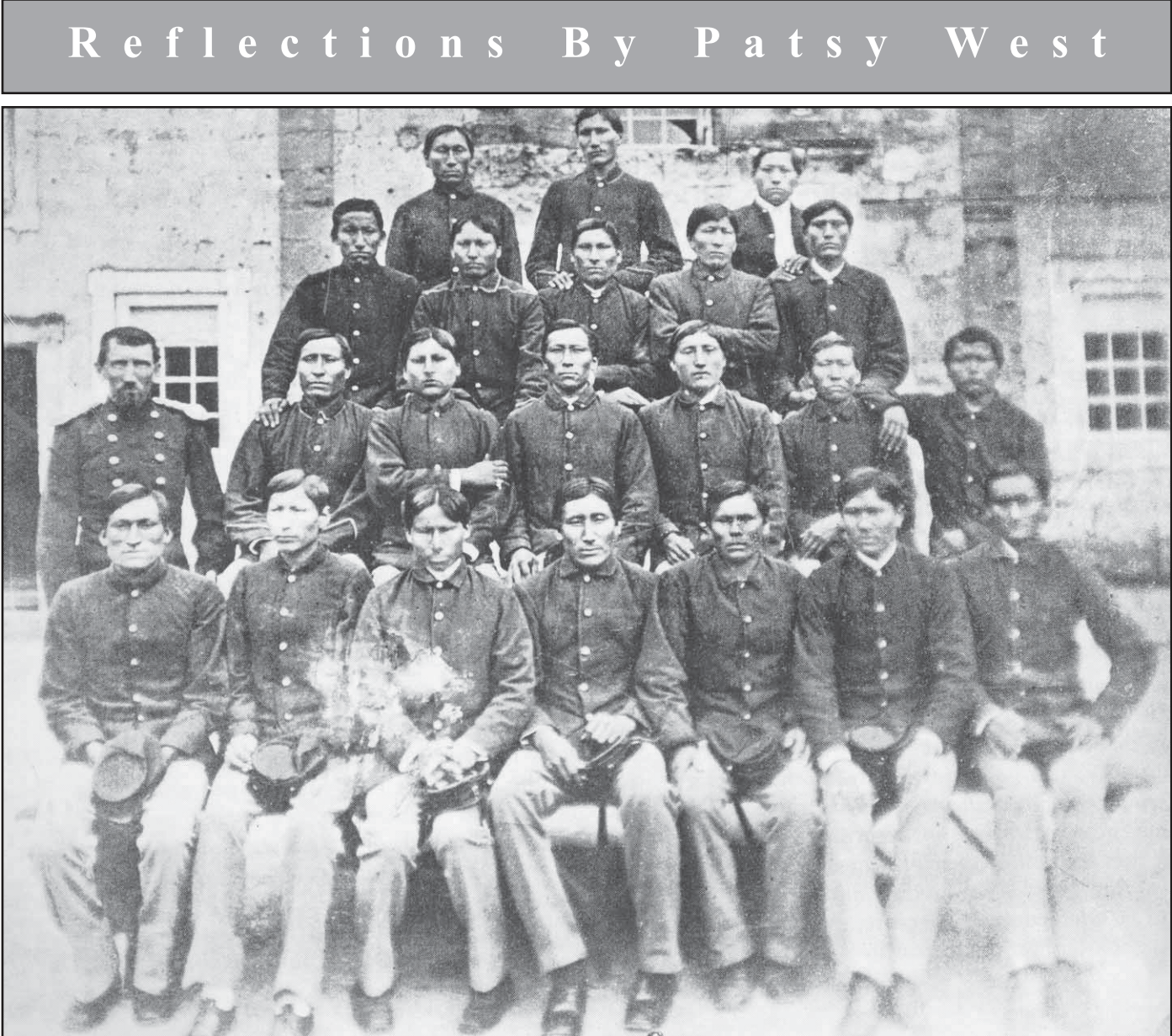
Editor:
Hello, my name is Krystal and I’m doing a report on the Seminole Indian Tribe and I need a picture of your Chief’s headress. I have looked everywhere I can think of and no pictures have been found. Also any interesting information you can supply would be more than appreciated. Also this is my grandfather’s e-mail address that you can reply at.
Krystal Snyder, Duncan, OK, solutions@simplylnet.net



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Richard Pratt (top on left) shown in this 1879 photo with the first class of students at the Carlisle Indian School.

The ABC's Of Indian Schooling

Note: Recently Anne Valliere e-mailed the Seminole Tribune: “When we visited the Castillo de San Marcos (in St. Augustine, Fla.) we ran across the name of a gentleman who wanted to teach the Indians to speak English. What was his name? We were always told that our grandfather was asked to teach the Indians, but it is just a story passed down to us — we have no proof. However, when we read that a man from Pennsylvania was asked to teach the Indians, we were wondering what the history was on it? My grandfather was Emerson Loyd Eckert, from the New Oxford/East Berlin, Penn., area. Is there any truth to our story? Thanks for your help.” Historian Patsy West replies:

U.S. Army captain, Richard Henry Pratt, founded the Carlisle Indian School in 1879 in Carlisle, Penn., utilizing deserted army barracks. In 1879 he initially selected 60 Indian boys and 24 girls from the Sioux Agencies (specifically Rosebud and Pine Ridge), and from other Indian Territory tribes (excluding those children of the “civilized tribes”), and brought the total enrollment to 158 by the end of the year.

Pratt’s contribution to Indian education was that he was able to convince the public that Native Americans were able to be educated. Indeed, the studies proved the obvious, that Indian students were “as bright and teachable as average white children of the same ages.”

However, in order to carry out his goals, Pratt embraced a policy of total immersion by taking the children away from their people and culture and stressed “acculturation.” That is, an attempt to make the Indians “white.” This was done because the native ways were considered a negative influence to living in modern society.

Interestingly, Pratt became involved in Indian education by coincidence in 1875 during the Indian Wars on the Plains. He was put in charge of 72 Plains Indian captives taken from the war area and imprisoned at the Castillo de San Marcos (then called Fort Marion) in St. Augustine.

His prisoners — Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, and Comanche youngsters — were incarcerated far away from their homeland and became his students. In 1878, when the

prisoners were ordered back to Indian Territory, many wished to remain in the east and private sponsorship allowed some of them to stay and continue their education.

Some of the students attended an African-American school, the Hampton Institute in Hampton, Va. Pratt then opened Carlisle to cater solely to Native American students.

One theory was that taking students from the families of military-oriented Plains tribal chiefs and headmen might assure the tribes’ “good behavior” towards Americans. Thus, in 1880, two-thirds of the students at Carlisle were from leading families representing the Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Comanche, Pawnee, Menomonee, Iowa, Sac and Fox, Lipan, Ponca, Nez Perce, Wichita, Apache, and Pueblo tribes.

In 1887, Pratt was asked to take 39 Apache children between the ages of 12 and 22 who were incarcerated with their families at Fort Marion. As a result of Pratt’s success at Carlisle, in 1882, Congress made the then-sizeable appropriation of \$67,500 for the expansion of off-reservation industrial boarding schools.

These boarding schools’ teaching strategy was modeled from Pratt’s concept, which continued to be utilized until the turn of the century when Indian schooling was reformed into the less culturally harsh “reservation day school” programs.

Of importance to Seminole readers and school alumni is that Chilocco (established in 1884), Santa Fe (established in 1890 — renamed the Institute of American Indian Arts in 1962), and Haskell (established in 1884 — renamed Haskell Indian Junior College in 1965) rank among the longest operating of these early Indian schools.

In answer to Anne Valliere, I have not been able to verify whether your grandfather taught Indians. There might be some information in the government records from the Carlisle Indian School.

It seems a good lead since both the school and your grandfather were located in Pennsylvania. Contact your area university library to inquire about your best access for these government records from the Department of the Interior.

— *Reflections #187.*

Canoe Class

Continued from page 1

It was Everett’s students who discovered the first of some 120 aboriginal canoes in the drought-ravaged lakebed of nearby Newnan’s Lake (called Pithlachocco or “place of boats” by Seminoles hundreds of years ago). An archaeology buff who uses the rich historic lands around Gainesville in his teachings to Eastside students, Everett was honored — along with Crider and state archaeologist Melissa Memory — for their roles in helping protect what is now known as the largest find of aboriginal canoes in world history.

Radio carbon dating has placed the canoes between 500 and 5,000 years old, with 70 percent of them older than 3,000 years. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris has petitioned for the area to be honored as a National Historic Site.

While canoes were the lesson of the day, students seemed more interested in the Chief’s demonstration of how to make a “blow-gun” and “darts” from stalks of river cane he brought to the lecture. “Now don’t you all go out pointing these at people or getting me in trouble now,” he cautioned. “That’s all I need.”



CANOE 101: James Billie teaches high school students how to turn log into canoe.



Chairman James E. Billie reviews the plans for proposed Indian display.

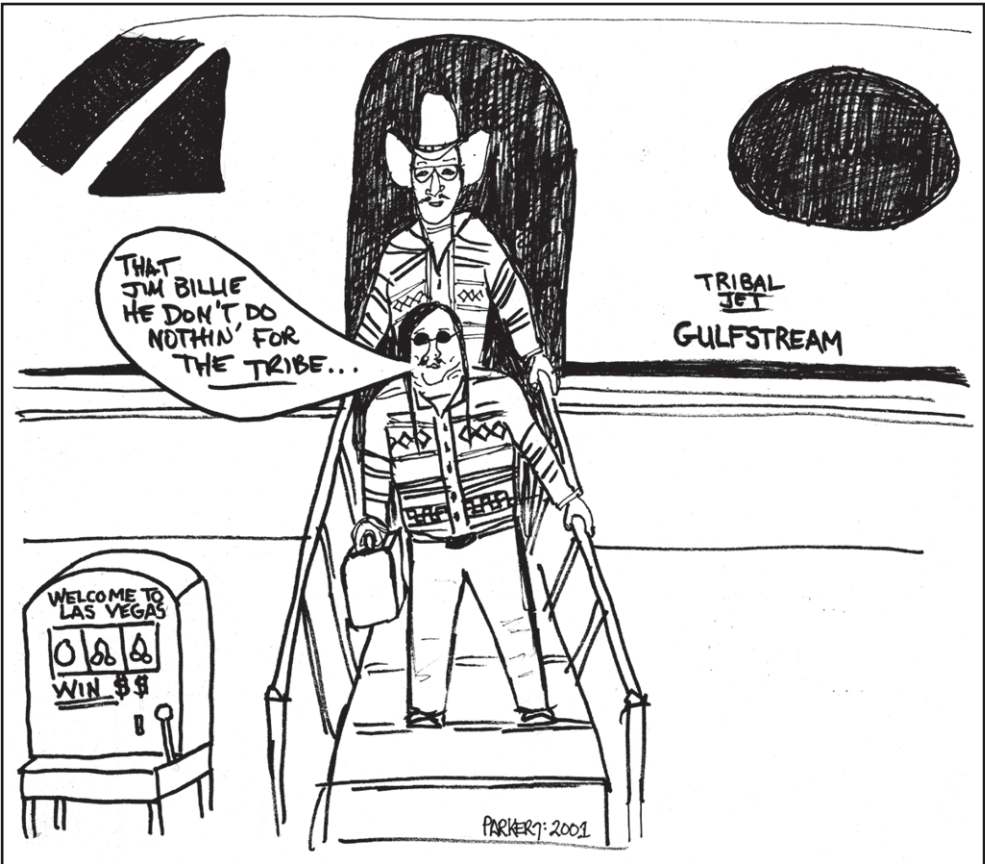
Students lined up after class to shake the Chief’s hand and autographs.

Later, Chief Billie toured the nearby Museum of Natural History’s Florida Indian display, now under construction. The exhibit, scheduled to open next year, traces Florida Indian life from the earliest humans to today’s Seminoles. Thatching work already completed in one part of the museum perturbed Billie, who commented: “The Indians would not have built it that way. In fact, no one would. That roof will leak. I sure wish they had come talk with us before they went to all this trouble.”

Back at Eastside High, teacher Everett marveled at Billie’s lecture: “Those kids really learned something today. He had a very big impression on them. You saw how close they were paying attention, even after 45 minutes and that is amazing.

“I don’t know how he was able to fit us in his busy schedule, but I am very grateful he did. He told me he would come back and do it again!”

“Heck there aren’t that many Indians who make dugouts anymore,” said Billie later. “This was major transportation for the Seminoles for many years. It’s part of our culture that needs to be preserved. That’s what those canoes at Pithlachocco tell me.”



Jet

Continued from page 1

The market for used corporate jets emerged as an issue during the Council negotiations. Cox said at the Council meeting that the Tribe stood to make as much as \$9 million profit on the sale of the G-IV. Two recent business stories shed some light on both the market, and the costs of breaking a contract.

In one case, Sykes Enterprises of Tampa broke a 10-year lease on a Gulfstream II with the plane’s owner, who happens to be the company’s founder and chief executive officer, John Sykes. The *St.*

Petersburg Times reported in a March 28 story that the company paid \$3.6 million in penalties after breaking the lease.

Also, noted investor Warren Buffett, speaking at a London news conference announcing the delivery of 50 new aircraft to Executive Jet Inc., said that while the overall stock market still had not bottomed, the market for corporate jets was strong.

“We’re seeing a slowdown in our businesses where you have discretionary spending,” Buffett told the *Associated Press*. “We’re not seeing that in NetJets.”

NetJets is a fractional ownership program in which several owners buy a corporate jet on a time-share basis. The story was reported March 27.



Guests perform a traditional dance that was used to illustrate Seminole culture.

Big Berry Moon Festival Receives ‘Good Response’

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon
BIG CYPRESS — The First Big Berry Moon Festival was held at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on the Big Cypress Reservation on March 24-25.

“The Big Berry Moon Festival is a festival of renewal,” said Sonny Billie, the Seminole and Miccosukee religious leader. “Today I made a tonic for the people as a gift from me to them and it’s also a way of me telling them thank you for coming. It’s made of fresh ginseng and spring water. I blessed it with a prayer song. My people pray through prayer songs unlike others

Festival because the moon this month is the big berry moon based on farming. Back in the old days our farming schedule was based on moons. Around last month was the small berry moon and that’s when the farmers would go and plant the berry seeds. Forty-five days later they would be ready to be picked and it would be the big berry moon.”

The medicine man also discussed the role of dance in traditional Seminole culture.

“Seminole dancing is part of our culture and religion,” he said. “The dances we danced are called the stomping dance, the catwalk dance and the alligator dance. We believe it’s a way for people to stay healthy. When they dance they replenish themselves and exercise, which is good for the body and soul.”

During the festival, a costume contest was held. It was led by Brian Zepeda, Operations Manager for the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

“We held a traditional Seminole clothing contest,” said Zepeda. “It gave a chance for people to see our traditional clothing and the festival overall was a chance for people to learn a little more about the Seminole culture and religion.”

Other activities at the festival were woodcarving, storytelling and patchwork. Also, there were craft booths and traditional Seminole food.

“This event gave people a chance to meet Sonny Billie and to learn about Seminole culture,” said Billy Cypress, Executive Director of the Museum. “It’s another outreach program the museum has like the Kissimmee Slough Rendezvous and Shootout. People can learn about our culture and visit the museum.

“It’s going to be four years the museum has been opened and we will continue to add programs like this as long as we continue to receive a positive response from the public. From what I’ve seen we got a good response.”

For further information on the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, call (863) 902-1113 or (954) 792-0745.



Sonny Billie shares culture with guests.

that get on their knees. This drink will replenish you and if you are feeling down it will revitalize you and give you strength to go on throughout the day.

“The reason for this festival was for people to come here and learn a little more about the Seminole culture,” he added. “It’s called the Big Berry Moon

Talk Details Tribe’s March To Prosperity

BIG CYPRESS — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will host a speakers’ forum on May 17 to discuss elements of the Seminole Tribe’s march from pioneer days to modern prosperity.

The program, entitled Seminole Trade 1880 – 1920, Prelude to Prosperity, will focus on the Seminole pioneers who

forged their lives and history through hunting, trapping and trading. The event will be held at the Big Cypress Youth Center beginning at 6:30 p.m. A dinner will also be served.

For more information contact Marty Bowers at (863) 902-1113.

Fort Basinger: Refuge For Survivors Of Battle Of Okeechobee

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

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon
SEBRING — On the morning of Dec. 27, 1837, the largest detachment of the U.S. Army ever assembled in Florida until that time headed back toward Fort Basinger. Two days earlier, on Christmas Day, they had been involved in what would be known as the biggest and fiercest conflict of the second Seminole War — the Battle of Okeechobee.

“We started this morning shortly after sunrise and made good progress with the wounded, without being attacked,” detailed Lt. Robert C. Buchanan in his journal. The journal was later published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 50 and edited by Frank F. White, Jr. “We encamped this evening at a cabbage hammock about seven miles from Fort Basinger. The Sgt. Maj. of the 6th Infantry and one private died on the march. Maj. Gustavus Loomis with one company was sent as far as Fort Gardner to send provisions to meet us at Fort Basinger. . . We find the litters to be most convenient and easy for the men who are badly wounded. They are far preferable to the ambulances.”

While the army struggled through the Florida wilderness back to safety, historians were later able to capture the impact the Battle of Okeechobee was to have on the conduct of the Second Seminole War.

“Even though outnumbered two to one, the Seminoles elected to stand and fight at Okeechobee,” says John Mahon, author of *The History of the Second Seminole War*. “The reason being they thought they could inflict more harm than they would receive. The casualties indicated their estimate was right. The white force lost 26 killed and 112 wounded, compared to the Seminoles’ 11 and 14. The battle was over by 3 p.m.

“There was no pursuit when the Seminoles withdrew toward the lake, scattered, and escaped towards the east because Gen. Zachary Taylor had so many dead and wounded to evacuate from the area. All of Dec. 26 was occupied in tending the wounded and trying to get them in condition to travel to Fort Basinger.”

The straggling detachment reached Fort Basinger three days after the battle, arriving at the hastily erected post on Dec. 28, 1837. Fort Basinger had been established as an

encampment only five days earlier, on Dec. 23, 1837. “After the Battle of Okeechobee, the wounded soldiers were brought to Fort Basinger first,” says Carolyn Collier, archivist of the Sebring County Historical Society. “At the time it was still an encampment. Gen. Taylor had ordered a small stockade to be built to store his heavy baggage and artillery while he pursued the Indians around Lake Okeechobee.

“He was unaware this would become a place of refuge after the Battle of Okeechobee. Also, he was unaware the fort would become so active and needed.” Fort Basinger was named in honor of Lt. William E. Basinger, one of the first officers killed in

the line of duty at the massacre of Maj. Francis Dade and most of his troops on Dec. 28, 1835. The Dade Massacre was the third worst defeat the U.S. Army ever suffered at the hands of Native Americans. In that battle, an estimated 400 Seminole Indians headed by Chiefs Jumper, Alligator, and Micanopy surprised and killed 105 men of the U.S. Army in a

spot in present-day Pasco County. Basinger was one of Dade’s officers.

While Fort Basinger was erected in a hurry, it actually served several important functions during the war. Not only did it become the place where the Army gathered to lick its wounds after the Battle of Okeechobee, it also had other roles in the war.

“On Dec. 23, 1837, Chief Alligator’s party was brought into Fort Basinger,” writes Buchanan. “Among them is one of Micanopy’s wives with her two children. One of the men is Coacoochee, a fine, tall, handsome looking fellow possessing some influence. They didn’t like the idea of being brought into the camp. Alligator was not in his camp and had only left two or three old or infirm men and a few boys, with a few women. He (Alligator) still professes peace, but that is all fudge (a lie). He has doubtless gone to join Sam Jones.”

Lt. Buchanan was correct in this conclusion since two days later the Battle of Okeechobee took place not too far away. He also praises Chief Alligator’s camp, which was located between Lake Istokpoga or as the Indians called it “Dead Man’s Lake,” since several Indians had been drowned attempting to cross it and Lake Kissimmee.

“Alligator’s camp was remarkably well situated,” writes Buchanan. “It was on the edge of a thin pine woods with a large prairie on either side of it, and commanding a view of both. From here, he (Alligator) could, without being seen himself see any one approaching him from either direction, and could advance or retreat as circumstances might require.”

Alligator, also known as Halpatter Tustenuggee, was an Alachua chief. “Alligator at this time was around 40 years old,” says Mahon. “He seems to have been only five feet tall. In dealing with the white men he acted as if born to the purple (royalty). His manners, in all respects, were as fine as theirs (the whites). Behind his open face and Roman nose was a stock of shrewdness, craft, and intelligence second to none.”

After the Second Seminole War the fort was still used.

“It was reactivated by the Florida mounted militia in 1849 and 1850,” says Collier reading from Albert Devane’s article, *Basinger: Pioneers Played Important Role In County History*, which was published in the *Sebring News* on Mar. 28, 1963. “A war scare at the time was averted by Billy Bowlegs assuring Capt. John C. Casey, the Indian agent, the pillaging, burning, and killing by the Indians was being done by some renegade Indians, stating he (Bowlegs) and his band would capture them and turn them over to the commanding officer at Fort Brooke for trial and sentence. This he did and

the frontier quieted down again.”

The fort was abandoned again till 1855 when the Third Seminole War began. “Mr. Devane stated it began due to the encroachment of the whites in the Indians’ hunting grounds,” says Collier. “Throughout the Third



Seminole War, Fort Basinger became a very active fort as a supply depot and staging site for the transfer of personnel from Forts Drum, Lloyd, Vinton, and Center. The supplies were brought in by wagon train from Fort Denaud on the Calloosahatchee River.

“In 1858, at the close of the Third Seminole War, with Billy Bowlegs’ surrender and emigration to Arkansas, the old log wooden fort went into decay very fast. In

1963, Mr. Devane, Highland’s County foremost historian at the time, noted, “Very little traces of the old fort are visible today and it is locally known as the old Frank Pearce Homestead.”

“The Pearce family — Capt. John Mizell Pearce and Martha Pearce — was the first white resident to establish a permanent home at Basinger in 1897. Their granddaughter, Edna Pearce Lockett lived in the Fort Basinger area all her life. She is now deceased, but the Edna Pearce Homestead (originally Frank Pearce Homestead) still stands in the area. Her grandfather, Capt. John Mizell Pearce, helped build the fort.”

Today, Fort Basinger no longer exists. All that stands is a marker along U.S. 98 where it crosses the Kissimmee River. It was erected by the Florida Board of Parks and Historical Memorials. The marker reads as follows:

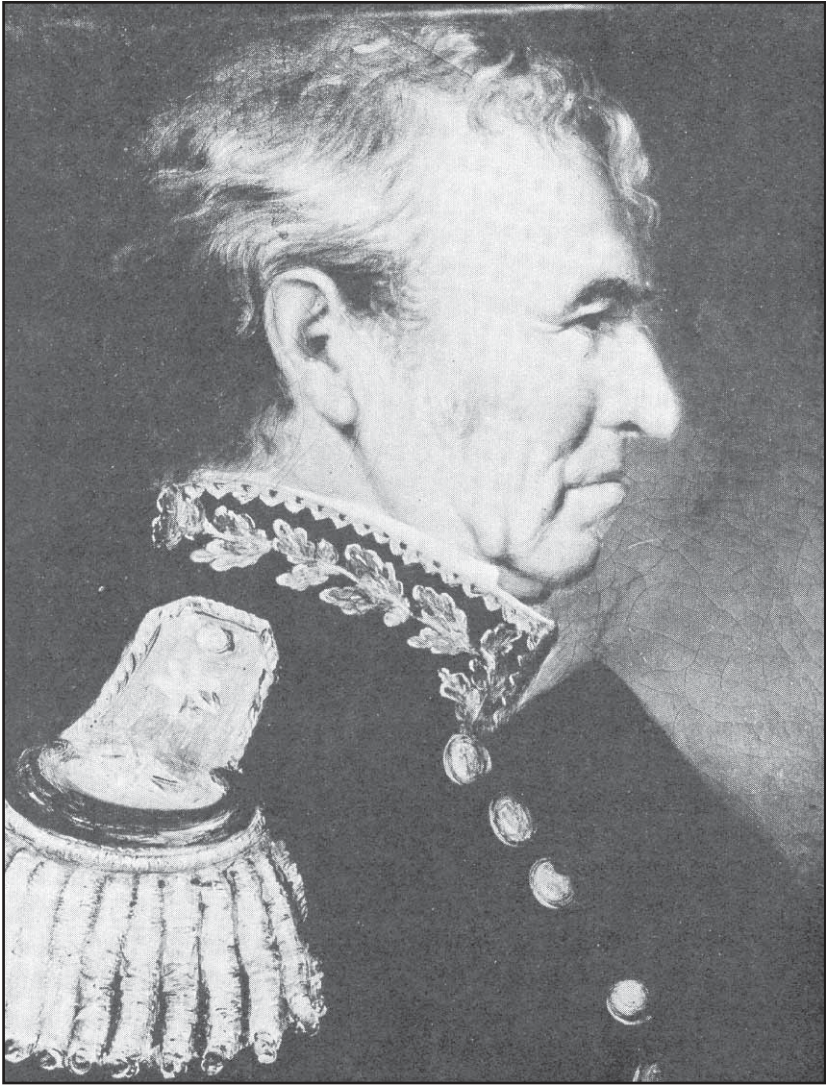
“FORT BASINGER — Col. Zachary Taylor had Fort Basinger built in 1837, during the Seminole Wars, on the Kissimmee River 17 miles above its mouth. It was a small stockade, which served as a temporary fort and supply station on the line of forts extending from Tampa to Lake Okeechobee. Named for Lt. William E. Basinger of the 2nd Artillery, who was killed in Dade’s Massacre, the fort was abandoned at the end of the Indian wars.”

To get to the site of the fort from Sebring, take Route 98 headed south toward Okeechobee, according to Ruby Collier, a Highlands County Native and volunteer at the Sebring Historical Society.

“After you pass the bridge where the Kissimmee River meets the Okeechobee River it is located on the west bank or left hand side of the road,” she says. “You will see the marker.”

“Unfortunately, no picture of Fort Basinger exists. All that’s left is the Edna Pearce Homestead and the old school house, which was built around the 1870s. And of course the marker, which is the only thing left to remind you a fort existed there at one point in time.”

For further information on Fort Basinger, call the Sebring Historical Society at (863) 471-2522. **Next:** Fort White.



ZACHARY TAYLOR: His forces finally limped back to Fort Basinger.

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Community News

LaBelle Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade

By B. Secody
LABELLE — 2001 Odyssey was the theme for the 35th Annual Swamp Cabbage Festival and Parade held Feb. 24-25. Since its inception back in 1967, the event — dubbed by the town folks as the “social event of the year” — has always been held on the last weekend of February.

Pioneers of LaBelle decided to name the event ‘Swamp Cabbage Festival’ for the sabal palm tree, which is the Florida State tree. It is also aptly known as the cabbage palm and produces a delicious vegetable known as heart of the palm. When chopped and boiled with the likes of ham or other meat, it becomes a most delectable staple for almost any meal. Residents of the area have enjoyed and depended on this tree for centuries, and have named their yearly event in its honor.

This year’s festival hosted a variety of family fun and activities for young and old. The elementary students enjoyed games and a parade at their school, while the new Swamp Cabbage Festival Queen pageant was held on Tuesday, Feb. 20. There were exciting games such as the lawnmower races, where men and women competed against each other with their customized machines — many of which could out-power some cars — with determination in their eyes and put the pedal to the metal. Spectators cheered on contestants — and everyone stayed a safe distance away. (Whoever said that lawnmower racing was a man’s game has never witnessed some of these La “belles” — who would not think twice about running down their male competitors to win the race.)

Rodeos for youth and adults were held at the local arena, and entertainment was provided throughout the weekend at Barren Park. Armadillo races were a popular attraction for those betting folks. After examining each of the little armored entrants, a selection was made and a dollar paid. “And they’re off!” — confused as to which way they were supposed to go, race officials gently prodded them towards the finish line. The winner received a treat, and the winning bettors received a T-shirt.

On Saturday, the day started early with a 5-K run/walk, which ended right before the start of the parade. Thousands of spectators lined both sides of the street and waved in the participants as they crossed the finish line. Ear-piercing police sirens signaled the start of the

Motorcycle police thrilled spectators with their figure eight maneuvers — often coming within inches of those sitting on the curbs. School bands marched while they played a medley of songs and beauty queens and princesses glided past atop new convertibles. The Araba Shriners, a



One of the recently born baby goats gets a hold on its morning meal.

Spring Baby Boom Hits Billie Swamp Safari

BIG CYPRESS — It’s spring-time on the Big Cypress Reservation; trees and flowers are blooming and tourists season is booming at Billie Swamp Safari.

Also arriving this spring, for the very first time, are baby goats! The goats were born in March just as the cypress trees were turning green and wild orchids, bromeliads, alligator flag and the purple swamp iris splashed the cypress dome air-boat trail with full color.

According to Jodi Reynolds, animal keeper at the Safari, other new additions include 15 baby ostriches, seven baby American bison, four baby water buffalo, baby scrub cattle and baby wild boar.

“All the new babies can be seen in and around the 2,200 acre Eco-heritage

park via the swamp buggy tour or in the main compound,” said Reynolds. “If you haven’t been out to visit us at Billie Swamp Safari, springtime is definitely something you won’t want to miss.”

Billie Swamp Safari is located between Fort Lauderdale and Naples off I-75. To reach the site, take exit 14, travel north 19 miles to the park entrance. From Clewiston, take 833 south and follow the signs to the park entrance.

The park is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Safari offers airboat rides every half-hour, swamp buggy Eco-tours every hour on the hour and snake and alligator demonstration at 12:15 p.m. and 2:15 p.m. For information call (800) 983-6101 or (863) 983-6101. You can also visit our web site: www.seminoletribe.com/safari.

Miccosukee Resort Hosts Everglades-Themed Art Contest

By Tommy Benn
MICCOSUKEE — The 15th Annual Intertribal Agricultural Counsel and Symposium is holding an Art Contest in conjunction with its annual meeting being held at Miccosukee Resort and Gaming Nov. 2001. The contest is open to all artists ages 8 to 18, who will vie for \$500 in prizes.

1. All work should reflect the Conference theme “Harmony In The Everglades Through Indian Agriculture.” This theme stresses development through farming and ranching and the importance of natural resources preservation. Art work may also incorporate the eight Seminole and Miccosukee Clans.

2. All media are accepted, including pen and ink, charcoal, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, and photographs.

3. Artist’s name, address and telephone number must be attached to the back of the original artwork or photo.

4. Winning artwork will be used for the Conference Posters, publications, etc.

5. **Deadline:** Monday May 21, 2001 is the deadline for all artwork submitted. Original Artwork or a photo of the artwork should be submitted by the deadline to: Big Cypress Ahfachkee School; Hollywood Education Office; Ft. Pierce Sally Tommie; Immokalee Field Office Elaine Aguliar; Brighton Michelle

Thomas in Chairman’s office; Tampa to Brighton; Miccosukee at Miccosukee Resort to Becky Buster.

6. The Committee members will select the winning art work.

7. Original artwork and photographs will be returned after the contest. Please make arrangements to pick up art work from the same location where art work was dropped off.

ART Contest	
15th Annual Intertribal Agricultural Counsel Symposium	
Name	_____
Address	_____
City	_____
State	_____ Zip _____
Phone Number	_____
Artwork Information	
Type	_____
Medium	_____
Title	_____
(Painting, Drawing, Photograph) (Watercolor, Pen & Ink)	

Gator Grabbed From Headquarters Pond

By Colin Kenny
HOLLYWOOD — A 7 ½ foot alligator was lassoed April 4 by Skeet Johns out of the parking lot retention basin adjacent to the Seminole Tribal Headquarters building.

“It’s a pretty young alligator, probably about eight to ten years old,” said Johns, head curator at the Native Village. Johns had been trying to catch the shy and wary reptile for almost two months by winning over its confidence with food. “He basically walked right through the noose,” said the veteran ‘gator handler.

After catching the reptile, Johns taped its mouth shut, and with some assistance loaded the surly saurian onto the covered back of a pickup truck. The beast was then transported to the Native Village where he will be used for alligator wrestling demonstrations. “He’s perfect for deep water wrestling,” said Johns.

According to Johns, the alligator probably originated in the canal that runs along the nearby Turnpike before finally settling in the basin that collects all the

storm water runoff from the Tribal office building parking lot.

“To my knowledge, he’s probably been in there since January, maybe longer,” said Johns, adding that the ‘gator favored the retention pond because of the amount of cover and as a feeding area.

“A lot of food. Turtles, fish and small mammals such as water rats, pos-

sums — even raccoons — a lot of birds hang around the retention pond,” Johns added.

The alligator was captured because it was feared it might wander onto the parking lot and pose a danger to someone leaving or entering the Headquarters building.

Local police lead Grand Marshall Jake Leicht to start parade.



B. Secody

B. Secody



Seminole royalty wave to the crowd during the Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade.

parade, which started at Bridge Street and traveled through town to Barren Park. Although this year’s parade seemed to have less entries than in past years, it lasted for over an hour. Children stood at attention — poised to bolt into the road to retrieve candy and other give-away items offered from entrants. This year’s Grand Marshal of Odyssey 2001 was Jake

Leicht, one of LaBelle’s long-time residents and festival pioneers, who rode in a fancy horse-drawn carriage.

The Seminole Tribe presented seven entries this year and included Tribal Officials such as President Mitchell Cypress, Big Cypress Board Representative Manuel “Mondo” Tiger, and Brighton Board

Representative Alex Johns. Seminole Police Department, Blue Top Construction, Seminole Veteran’s Color Guard and Big Cypress Horse Club were highly favored by the crowd who enjoyed the colorful trademark patchwork jackets and skirts.

Other floats included traditional home-made floats, law enforcement agency representatives, hot cars, big swamp-buggies and monster trucks.

Gospel Sing-spiration Brings Back Brighton Memories

By B. Secody
BRIGHTON — Nestled-covered in the Spanish Moss-covered trees, with the sun’s rays trickling through openings in the branches, the Brighton Baptist Church has rested in the serene beauty for over 50 years. For as many years, the church has hosted weddings, funerals, weekly services and special events such as the Gospel Sing-spiration, which was held here recently. On the days services are held, the little church comes alive with sounds of happy children squealing and playing, gospel singing groups lifting a joyous sound to the heavens; and the laughter of the ladies in the fellowship hall — preparing the feast, which will be served to all who attend the service.

Old, tired-looking buildings on the grounds — retired years ago — still serve as a reminder of days gone by when camp meetings were held on a regular basis. Many of the older folks enjoy reminiscing about events that had taken place in those buildings, and tell their children of all the good times when people came to share the Word, food and fellowship. Many of the neighboring communities and visitors of all races were welcomed by the Seminoles who worshiped there. Some traveled a great distance to spend the weekend at this place of worship.

On Sunday, April 1, Dan Bowers welcomed guests from all over Florida. They came from as far away as Fort Pierce, Cape Coral and Hollywood to share their songs and testimonies with others. One of the visitors recalled being a homeless traveler, who had been welcomed and fed by the family there. He recalled the friendly smile and warm invitation that had greeted him over 35 years ago.

Testimonies presented by those who had been lost in drugs or alcohol brought tears and “Amen”s from those who had also been there themselves somewhere back in time. The memories of those days still remain fresh in their minds, as well as the very day and time that they accepted the Lord and changed their lives forever.

Gospel singing groups all took turns getting up before the congregation to share their special music. Traditional hymns were sung by some of the groups. The old Indian hymns sung in the hauntingly beautiful Creek language was enjoyed and shared by all. Contemporary groups were on hand to shake things up. The Battiest Family presented a rousing rendition of some newer



Sun and mist combine to create a surreal setting for the Gospel Sing-spiration.

B. Secody

tunes as well as old favorites.

After a visiting preacher took the pulpit, and did what preachers do when they are handed a microphone, the service concluded with an invitation sung for the benefit of anyone who chose to come forward for prayer or to receive spiritual guidance in their lives.

By 7 p.m., the hungry groups were ready to indulge in the feast that awaited them in the fellowship hall. Roasting pans and huge bowls of every type of food imaginable were crowded onto a table. Not even a free inch of space remained. Two massive coolers loaded with chicken, ribs and steaks were put in a place of honor on a newly erected table brought in to accommodate the additional dishes that continued to arrive. Dan Bowers roamed the room like Alan Funt — with his camera — catching many of his guests and helpers in unflattering poses — complete with sauce or grease adorning their bulging cheeks.

Once everyone had filled up on the wonderful provisions, (some jokingly stating they would require a crane to rise from the table), hugs ruled: group hugs, kid-hugs, grandma-hugs, friend-hugs — but mostly hugs that did not say goodbye, but “until we meet again.”

By night’s end, the little church was again silent and dark, the sun had long since gone down, and the sounds of the day had been replaced by familiar sounds of the night. Like so many in years gone by, it had been another good day in Brighton.

Colin Kenny



Skeet Johns prepares to relocate the alligator to Native Village.

Community News

New Battiest Family Gospel Singers Continue Tradition

By B. Secody
HOLLYWOOD — Four generations of Battiest Family Gospel Singers began with a young Choctaw boy named Henry who started singing with his father at the age of five. The original Battiest Family started over 50 years ago, and traveled the globe preaching and singing. He jokingly tells friends that his brothers all received biblical names, but because he was born on Halloween, he became Henry — a name he would eventually bestow on his son. Henry and his family, hail from Broken Bow, Okla. The family was and is still known for their powerful and emotional musical presentation. Playing the piano comes naturally for Henry, and today, it is his introduction that sets and controls the beat for the other members of the group.

Henry Battiest eventually met his match, and married the lovely young woman named Dina, who would be his singing partner for life. When their son was born, he was named after his father. Henry Jr.— in keeping with the family tradition — was put on stage and handed a microphone as a young child. He soon amazed his family and others with his powerful voice that seemed to penetrate the very soul. A new branch of the Battiest family was started. Henry Sr., Dina, Isaac (Henry's brother) and Henry Jr., who has since become known as "Junior," began traveling throughout Oklahoma in the beginning and eventually covered many areas throughout the United States — even in places outside of reservations. Soon they were in demand and found themselves on the road a good deal of the time.

Meanwhile, in Hollywood, Fla., June Baker — eldest daughter of Judy and Pete Baker — was already touching the hearts of young and old alike. Everyone who had heard her flawless voice encouraged her to pursue. She was beautiful and she was kind to everyone, and she had a father who was an ex-Marine and a cop. (Pete Baker was Seminole's first law enforcement officer. Before official titles were bestowed, he was considered THE security officer and the one person to call for help. He would patrol the streets of the Hollywood reservation each night, and anyone having thoughts of doing a bad deed usually changed their mind when they saw Pete's old station wagon rounding the corner.)

Pete and Judy had a second daughter they named Susie and a son named Gustav (who everyone called Petey — until he made it clear that he preferred to be called Pete.) Susie and June both enjoyed music. Susie began to play the piano, and with June already in the spotlight with her vocal talents, the young ladies became one of the main attractions at the Mekusuke Baptist Church. Eventually, the young men in the community began to attend church services. They would sit mesmerized — wishing they could just even say hello to the Baker sisters. Some of those brave souls would venture forward until they were met with the stony glare of the ex-Marine — that dared them to say anything more than "hello" or "Praise the Lord!" to his daughters.

In 1984, many things changed. The Battiest Family came to Hollywood to share their music and testimony with the congregation at the Mekusukey

Baptist Church. Young Junior had grown into a handsome young man with a voice and powerful as thunder. He could touch the very soul as softer the heart of even the worst of sinners. He also touched the heart of June Baker. The two were smitten with each other from the beginning — sharing shy smiles from across the room — both knowing in their hearts that they had met for a reason.

Neither wanted to see the Battiest family's visit end, but with the approval of "Dad," they

to get even better. June and Junior began to sing together and became known as "Second Wind." They released an album called "Out of Darkness" in the late 80s, and began to travel extensively throughout the United States.

Eventually, Susie was to join the couple as well as a young baritone named Louis, who only sang with the group for a short time. They began to be in demand everywhere. People could not seem to get enough of this dynamic young group. However, as

natural singer like his father and grandfather. . . and his mother. He has the strength and power of his father, and has a natural ability for harmonizing or singing lead. Never faltering in his choreography, he also never misses a note or a beat. His voice — as well as his facial and hand gestures captivates his audience, who just can't get enough of him. Already, most of the ladies — young and old — have fallen in love with the boys. They are both very handsome and talented young men. Although they both enjoy the attention, they take it all in stride. They remain focused on their music and enjoy just being regular guys at home — who love to go fishing with their grandpa and do all of those "guy" things.

Recently, a gentleman living on the Big Cypress reservation has joined the group and adds a special touch to the harmony. Leroy King, an Oklahoma Seminole, sings the baritone part, which really caps off the unique sound that is so popular with audiences. Henry teasingly introduces Leroy as "the lowest man in Big Cypress" due to his ability to hit lower notes than any other singer they have heard. Leroy fits right in with the group, and enjoys getting to be a part of the family. He currently resides with his family in Big Cypress, and is employed at Ahfachkee Day School. Once a week, he travels to Hollywood to practice with the group and help out with decisions regarding new songs.

Ashley, age 17 and the eldest of the Battiest children, is a big help to her mom when it comes to riding herd on the three youngest children who are Taylor — age six, Turquoise — age four, and Coral — who is currently three. With a plate this full, it is impressive to see how calm and organized June is. At concerts, she sits quietly — as does Grandma Judy — while the boys perform. When asked just how they manage to stay so calm (most people would be announcing to the entire church — the family connection — if they didn't simply explode with the pride first.) Judy and June both state that it is very hard to control their emotions and their natural instinct to brag. They are very proud of the boys, and it takes every ounce of strength they can muster — and even more prayers for control — to just sit there calmly and not explode with pride.

The group has recently again started performing locally and throughout South Florida. However, Henry Sr., and Dina are planning to return to Oklahoma sometime in May, and Junior's family has plans of traveling with them. Junior has not been to Oklahoma for a long time and has been feeling homesick. He states that it is time for him to return home to visit and just relax with his family. They will perform occasionally while out there and during that time, the folks here will have to wait until their return. They will be sorely missed by their legions of fans.

The New Battiest Family — as were the original family members — are inspiring, true role models in the ways of Christian upbringing of their children. They not only walk the walk and talk the talk — they sing it, too.



New Battiest family gospel singers got together for this group shot including Tribal citizen Leroy King (r).

vowed to keep in touch until they met again. The visits to Hollywood began to come more often to the delight of everyone. June and Junior were happy, and all those who got to hear them sing were happy. Even Pete and Judy were happy, as were Henry Sr. and Dina.

Once everyone realized that June and Junior would be even happier if they were to marry, things started to happen quickly. Just as Henry Sr. had realized that he had been destined to marry Dina, Pete and Judy also knew that this would be a marriage made in heaven. Now everyone was happy — (everyone, this is — except all the young men that never even got a chance for that first date). But it was about

they started having children, June and Junior realized that the younger ones were not adapting to life on the road, so rather than down the health of their children, they started to slow risk with their traveling. They vowed to someday start touring again — once the kids got older. The only problem was, as one started to get older, another was born.

Today, with six children in tow, June has decided to take some time off to be a full-time mom. The two oldest boys, who are Zachary — now 12, and Spencer — now 10, started showing an interest in music several years ago. They begged their dad to let them perform. Zach was a natural drummer. He has what it takes to keep the rhythm going. Spencer is a

Group Meets To Discuss S.R. 7 Widening Project

By Colin Kenny
HOLLYWOOD — What is going to happen to Tribal enterprises and property when State Road 7 is expanded from four lanes to six through the Hollywood Seminole Reservation? The South Florida Regional Planning Council (SFRPC) hosted an open house at the Seminole Tribal Headquarters Building auditorium on March 22 to discuss the widening of State Road 7 which runs north and south through the Hollywood Reservation. While the Tribe provided the venue, they didn't provide a representative of Tribal interests on this matter.

"The widening project is going to happen whether the Seminole Tribe wants it or not," said Seminole Tribal Realty Director George Johnson from his office the following week.

The roadway, also known as U.S. Highway 441, will be widened from the Broward/Miami-Dade County line to Griffin Road. The project is slated to start in 2005 when the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) will begin upgrading the roadway from four to six-lanes. The work is scheduled for completion in 2007.

The makeover is necessary to accommodate the ever-increasing traffic demands along this important north-south artery, SFRPC officials say.

With the Tribal Council recently passing a resolution to build a Hard Rock Café and Casino along with the smoke shops and other Tribal enterprises along the FDOT controlled corridor, Johnson stressed the need for Tribal engagement in the pre-planning stage.

"Somebody needs to be involved on behalf of the Tribe with the Regional Planning Council," said Johnson. "I think they need to be in the design



Project Manager Ford with Engineer Tavella.

approval process in this widening project, and the way to do that seems to be through the SFRPC.

"Regardless of the path of the six lanes, the median cuts and curb cuts are of vital interest to the Tribe and there needs to be negotiation in the location and numbers of those cuts."

Business and property owners and the public in general were invited to listen to SFRPC officials Bob Daniels, and David Dahlstrom give a 15-minute presentation on the FDOT's SR 7 widening plans. That was immediately followed by a 20-minute session for attendees to give design input on median landscaping, street-lighting, bus-stop preferences, media openings, driveway accesses and other design elements. The entire presentation was repeated hourly.

In the auditorium lobby, stretched lengthwise over 10 tabletops, was an aerial photograph of the area that will be impacted, with markings denoting future highway augmentation. In addition, FDOT engineers James Ford and Chris Tavella were present to address concerns of business/property owners.

According to planning council officials, the FDOT has a 120-foot wide right of way throughout the five-mile section. However, Seminole Tribal Realty Director George Johnson says the FDOT only has a 100-foot right-of-way that slices through the Hollywood Reservation.

Within the 120-foot corridor there will be six drive lanes, two bike lanes (one each going north and south), sidewalks, curbs, gutters as well as a 19.5-foot-wide, landscaped median. However with a 100-foot corridor going through the Hollywood Reservation, there may only be enough room for the six lanes, a concrete median wall and probably no bike paths, according to Johnson.

While some business/property owners along the corridor aren't looking forward to losing parking spaces along with the general disruption caused by construction that will be going on, business owner Brian James keeps a philosophical attitude. "It's gonna slow things down, but it's the price you pay for progress," said James from behind the counter of the Player's Pawn shop located across the road from the Tribe's Hollywood Casino. "You can't fight city hall. Besides, life's too short to worry about a road."




Aerial photo displayed on table-top for group to view.

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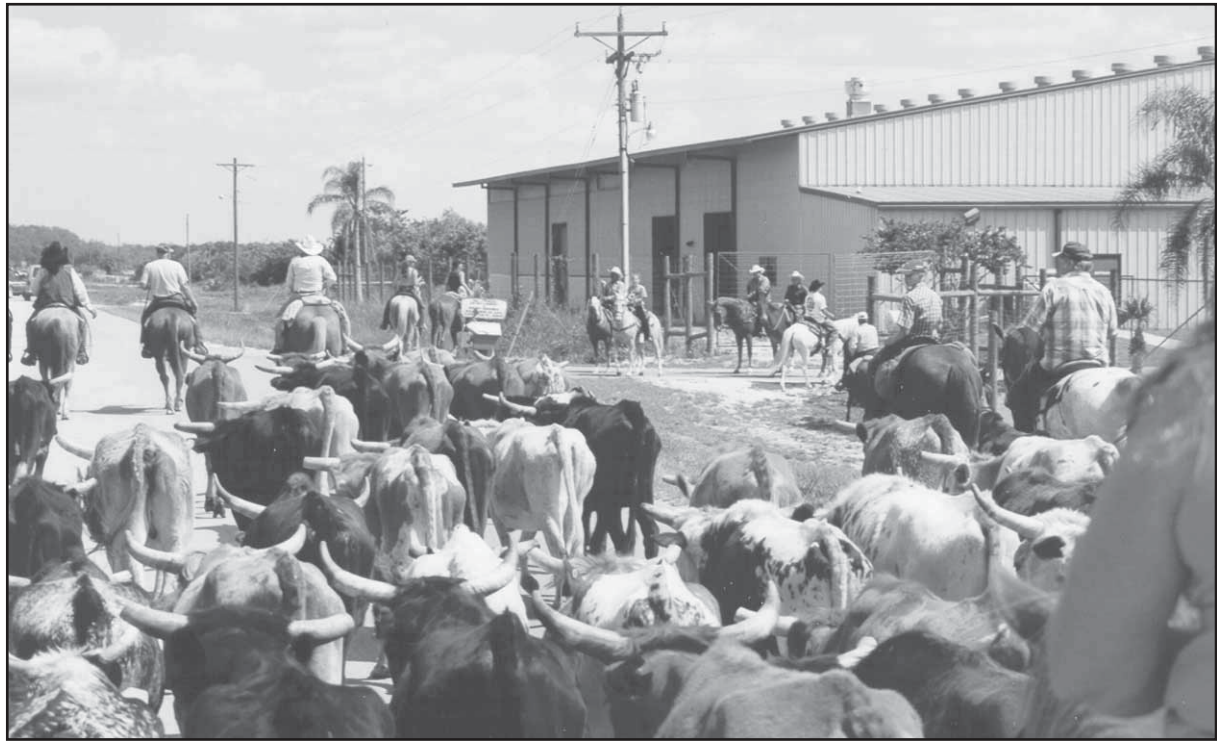
Cattle Owners Plan For Spring Round-Up

By Tommy Benn
BIG CYPRESS — David Jumper (Water Commission chairman) led the invocation as the meeting got under way. Members present were Richard Bowers, Mary Jumper, Clifton Billie, Joe Frank, and Anita Johns. Not present were Paul Bowers Sr. and Cicero Osceola.
Cattle Foreman Joey Henry reported that he and his crew were busy getting ready for Spring Round-up and gathering, and the annual animal vaccination. Fences to fix and replacing bulls as need through out the Big Cypress cattle project. Henry also stated that he has make sure that hay is distributed as soon as it arrives on the reservation. He reminded everyone that due to the long and extended drought that extra care needs to be given to the cattle, as they are gathered, driven to the cowpens and worked with TLC (Tender Loving Care) keeping them stress-free.
Water Master Billie Johns stated that there is "NO WATER" but is keeping a pump running in the Bull pasture. With little rain forecast for March, the group was preparing for a long, severe drought.
Land Usage Foreman Mike Smith reported that he himself has just gotten back to work as he has been nursing a hurt knee. Stating he has been busy getting equipment serviced and running and operators back to jobs where they are needed most. Smith also stated that he had just completed a course on the Burch Wet Blaise training. The Wet Blaise, a patented process in which the Tribe owns shares, is used to mow grass and at the same time control smut grass and other undesirable foliage.



JOEY HENRY: Outlines round-up plans.

Water Resources were supposed to be working together on this project and he wants
Tepper to attend these meeting so he could answer questions regarding the projects. Among his concerns: that these projects, approved five years ago and the monies set aside for their completion, weren't moving fast enough to solve the water problems on the reservation.
Rep. David Cypress, Big Cypress Community representative to the Tribal Council, was also in attendance. He asked Bannock why the pumps already positioned and placed weren't doing their job of moving the water as they were installed to do. Bannock stated tha the existing pumps needed to be relocated at a cost of \$25,000 per pump. When asked by Cypress who would foot the cost of the relocation of the pumps, Bannock replied that because it was "a betterment" the tribe would be responsible. David Cypress then stated that if it pumps weren't working doing the job they were placed to do, how could it be considered a "betterment." Rep. Cypress said the pumps were installed at great expense to do a job, they haven't done it since they were placed.
Tribal cattle owners Billie Johns, Mary Jumper, Mary Jane Koenes, Ernie Bert, Jack Motlow, Moses Jumper, Joe Osceola Sr. were given maps of the pastures and shown where their water stock wells would be placed to supply their herds with water, because once the water project is completed, they will have no water source. Richard Bowers added that Water Resource and N.R.C.S. will help them with water wells, if the cattle owners sign up for the EQUIP program, 75 percent would be paid by EQUIP and 25 percent by Water Resources. Bowers said he didn't know who would be responsible for the electric bill but he would look into the matter.
Richard Bowers added that a disaster fund is being looked into for the cattle owners and that they should keep all paid feed and supplement feed receipts. Walpole credit applications were handed out to cattle owners, too. Two new cattle owners were approved by the Board. They are John Billie Sr. and Nadine Bowers. They are still awaiting available pasture to be assigned to them.
A recommendation was made to ask Don Robertson to ask Carl Baxley if he could move his herd at his appointed Vaccination date back to Bill Osceola's old pasture. Carolyn Billie stated that the Osceola pasture was not ready for Baxley's cattle as several improvements still needed to be completed.
The group said the scheduled plan development should be completed in a time frame of three to four months. The newly approved cattle owners John Billie Sr. and Nadine Bowers should be accommodated hopefully with in six months.



These cattle – at the end of recent Junior Cypress Cattle Drive – are some of the livestock in Tribe's herd.

Seminoles Play Big Role In Florida's Cattle Industry

By Tommy Benn
KISSIMMEE — The Florida cattle industry is the oldest established business in North America. The Florida beef industry has a rich and successful heritage, shared by the Seminole Tribe. The first cattle stepped foot on Florida shores in 1521 A.D. The cattle traveled in the cargo holds of small wooden ships, hung in slings as they crossed the vast empty Atlantic Ocean.
By the mid-1600s, there were 34 established ranches throughout the boundaries of Florida with cattle numbering over 20,000 head. Today there are over 18,000 ranchers operating within the state with an estimated two million cattle on the various ranch operations.
The Native Americans of Florida have been involved with raising cattle since cattle were off-loaded from the tiny ships' holds that carried them to the New World. Instructed by the Franciscan priests who settled among the Natives and taught them Christianity, they adapted to the task and today are one of Florida largest cattle ranchers. It has been documented that around 1740 Indians established permanent grazing territories housing vast numbers of cattle. The Seminole leader Old Cowkeeper in 1775 was reported to have had a herd of the finest cattle in the Alachua Prairie basin area numbering some 7,000-10,000 head of breeding stock.
Today, the Seminole Tribe of Florida has cattle herds on both the Brighton and Big Cypress Reservations. The Board also oversees two other board-run cattle operations, one on the Miccosukee Tribe's land lease, the other on a private lease in Highlands County on Parker Island.
The Seminole Tribe has recently purchased the controlling interest in one of the oldest Brahman Cattle operations in the United States, the HK Cattle Company established in 1876. The HK operation is a purebred Red Brahman seed stock, semen and embryo transplant company aimed at an international market. HK has sent its Red Brahman cattle, embryos and

semen to over 40 countries in Central and South America, Africa and Australia. The HK operation will be relocating to the Big Cypress Reservation from its home in Roshanon, Tex.
The Brahman cattle have met the tough Florida environmental factors and producers' needs. Their short hair and loose skin makes them more versatile to thrive in Florida's subtropical climate and conditions, being more tolerant to the heat and humidity. The Brahman also have a high tolerance to infestation of various insects and pests.
Florida is rated in the top-10 in beef production nationally and third in states east of the Mississippi River. The Seminole Tribe's Cattle industry is ranked 12th nationally as cow-calf producers.
Predominantly a state that runs cow-calf operations, Florida ships weaned (taken from their mothers) calves that weigh 300 to 600 pounds. The calves are shipped to back ground grazers, also called stockers, where they are pre-conditioned to a 900-pound weight. When the calves reach their contracted weight they are shipped to the feedlots to reach a finishing weight of 1,100 to 1,200 pounds. Of the 750,000 calves shipped out of Florida annually, 50 percent are trucked to Texas and Oklahoma.
Today's Florida beef programs are playing a large role in healthy living. The American Dietetic, Heart and Diabetes Associations all recommend beef as part of a balanced diet. Beef is a concentrated source of protein and provides several vital nutrients-zinc, iron and 5 B vitamins needed for a healthy diet. Lean cuts of beef should be part of any diet, especially those designed to lower blood pressure, cholesterol levels and to help manage diabetes.
Look for "loin" or "round" cuts of beef for your table. They are usually lower in fats and higher in nutrients. Cuts like sirloin, top round, eye of the round are some. When choosing ground beef the same rule holds true — ground from loin or rounds will be higher in protein and have less fat than those ground from chuck and shoulder cuts.

Cattle

Continued from page 1

who were honored by the Big Cypress Cattleman's Association remember those times well.
The cattle drive honored Big Cypress resident Tigertail, one of the original cattlemen. The honorary trail boss for the drive was Rudy Osceola, another long time cattlemen.
"When we first got cattle on Big Cypress, each of the first people who signed up was given 50 head," Little Tigertail, speaking in Creek, recalled in a speech at the end of the drive. "Some people could only get 10 head. But, when we got more cattle delivered, those who got 10 head were given 40 more.
"It was hard work. One time we had to leave the cows and the buzzards were so bad we were afraid the buzzards would attack the cows. So, someone said, let's leave the dogs tied up to protect the cows. When we returned, the buzzards had attacked the dogs."
Rudy Osceola has been a lifelong resident of Big Cypress and a cattlemen for over 30 years. He was Junior Osceola's nephew and recalled working for the man who was the first cattle foreman.

"We'd get up at dawn and spend the day in the saddle," Rudy said. "Junior was a great cattlemen. He was always ready to work. Whenever there was work to do, he was ready to do it. He'd work 24-hours a day, seven days a week if it were necessary.
"This cattle drive is like what we used to do every year. We'd hunt the cattle out of the swamps and drive them to the cattle pens. That's why this cattle drive today seems so familiar. It's work we all used to do."
The annual event will be held again next year in March. If anyone is interested in more information about attending the next drive, contact the Big Cypress Cattleman's Association at (863) 983-4141.



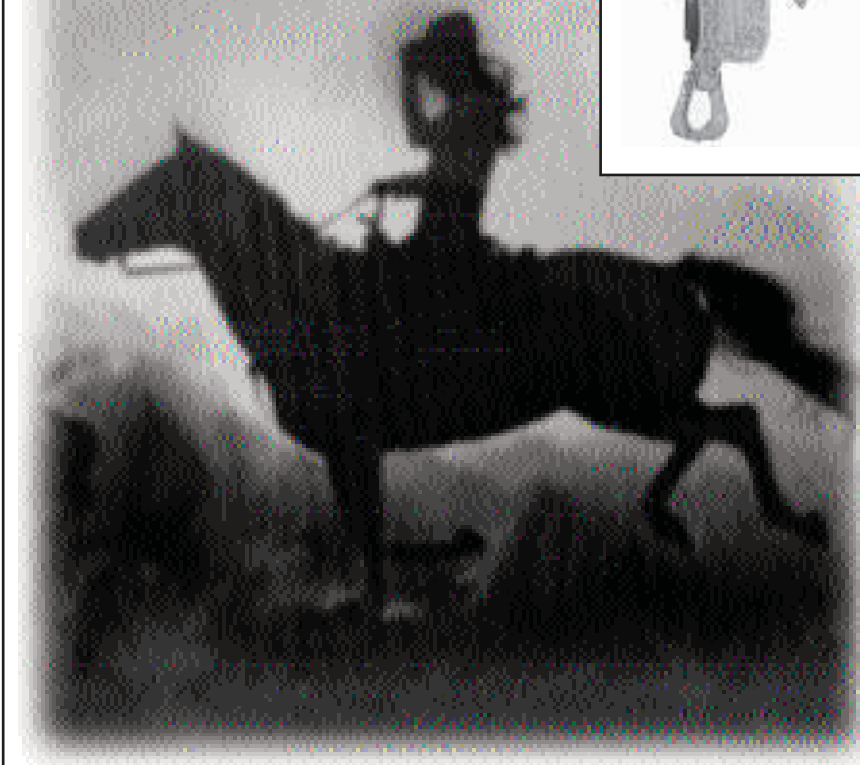
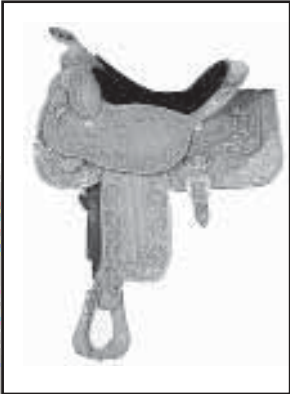
Little Tigertail, Paul Bowers, Rudy Osceola, Richard Bowers and Moses Jumper Jr. (l-r) gather at the end of the successful cattle drive.

Foot And Mouth Disease Causes Concern

By Tommy Benn
OKEECHOBEE — The recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) has stirred interest among Tribal ranchers.
FMD is a highly contagious infection of cloven-hoofed animals. It is believed to be caused by a virus that can survive in contaminated feed or fodder or the environment for a period of approximately 30 days. The virus survives in the lymph nodes or bone marrow of infected animals. There are seven known strains of FMD, and immunity to one will not protect an animal from other strains. Animals can recover from the disease but may carry the virus for up to 18 to 24 months. It is believed that swine are not carriers of the virus.
Infected animals will show signs of lameness and reduced eating habits due to painful lesions on and about the mouth area. Animals will also salivate a sticky, foamy saliva. The animal will develop yellowish blisters on the lips, tongue, gums, and nostrils and on the coronary band, between the hooves or teats. Fever and decreased milk production will also occur.
The virus can spread by human contamination with clothes, footwear and farm equipment. Breathing contaminated air infects most cattle. The disease can also be spread by a common water source

or through sharing hay or feed. Infected animals and all those from the same herd are usually destroyed to stop the spread of FMD.
There is no known cure for the FMD virus, which usually will run its course in two to three weeks. Animals can survive and recover from the disease, usually taking up to six months, although milk and meat production is reduced during that time. Meat animals may not regain lost weight for months to come.
Humans can become infected through skin wounds while handling diseased livestock or by drinking infected milk. Effects on humans are mild and temporary.
Due to the many species FMD can affect, its high rate of infestation and the fact the virus is shed before clinical signs occur, FMD is one of the most feared diseases in North America. An outbreak would cost millions of dollars in lost production, export market loss and the loss of animals during the eradication of the disease.
FMD is currently not found in North and Central America (North of Panama), Australia, and New Zealand. There has not been a reported FMD case in the United States since 1929, 1952 in Canada, or since 1954 in Mexico.

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The shallow flats off the Andros coast are famous for bonefishing and seabirds.

Andros

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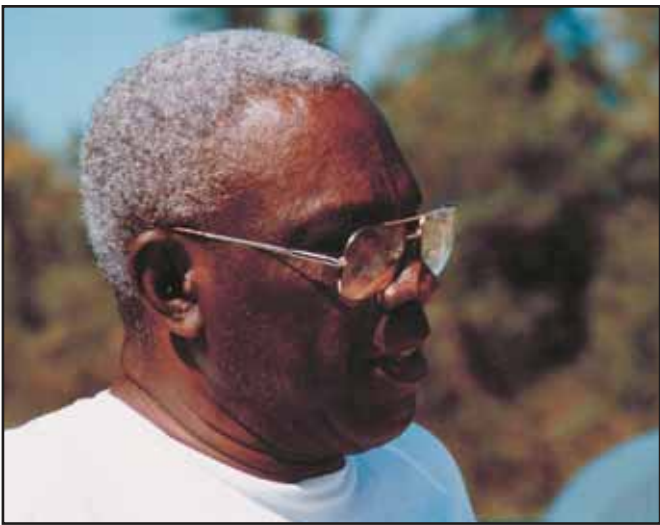
told them how to go across the Gulf Stream. Most landed here over a 20 year period,” said Rev. Newton, whose great grandmother Mary Lewis came over on a canoe. “Most of us all eventually ended up here in the Red Bays area, though individual Seminoles can be found all over Andros.

“You see people sometimes and you can tell they have the Seminole heritage. They have the rounder faces, the higher brow, the good hair,” said Rev. Newton, smiling through a mouthful of gold teeth.

At 2,300 square miles, Andros is the largest island in the Bahamas chain and one of the most unexplored lands in the Western hemisphere: the interior is a thick impenetrable bush and much of the edge mangrove swamp fragmented with bays, inlets, lakes and channels. Approximately 10,000 people live on this island as fishermen, fruit and vegetable farmers, boat builders, basket weavers, batik clothiers and wood carvers. In addition to abundant fish, locals also hunt and eat wild boar and land crabs. A famous Bahamaian mystical creature – the *chickcharnee* – is said to live atop the island’s tallest pine trees; if you cross *chickcharnee*’s path, legend says he will turn your head backwards.

The sign leading into the scattered Red Bays community features a color sketch of a pre-1900s Seminole seaside village scene. A few thatched roofs are evident, “but you can find that architecture in every island in the world. You don’t have to be Seminole to build a chickee,” said Chairman Billie, driving on the “wrong” side of the road through this former British crown colony. “I wonder how much of our culture, if anything, still hangs on here?”

Chairman Billie, Pete Gallagher (Tribal Communications), Lane Woods (Burch Co.) and Aviation pilot Chris McGinley found Rev. Newton outside his bright red clapboard house, not far from the beautiful turquoise-ringed tidal flats that mark Andros as a bonefish and birding mecca. “This is a great day for me, one of the best days of my life,” said the emotional Rev. Newton. “I have long wondered



Solomon Bowlegs runs a convenience store on Andros.

about my Seminole connections.”

It was an unannounced visit, on Billie’s orders, as he explained to the surprised Rev. Newton: “You might see me and not know I am a Seminole even though I speak my language fluently. But I didn’t want to come over like that so that you might, for the lack of a better word, ‘bullshit’ me. We needed to make sure this was all true.”



PARADISE: The shady, tranquil turquoise coast near the settlement of Red Bays.

Peter B. Gallagher

According to Newton, who wrote a history of Red Bays (See right), a devastating 1866 hurricane decimated the original Seminole population, including the canoes and much of the personal possessions brought over from Florida. “The people were left with nothing. Rev. Newton told the contingent. “There are about 84 of us here now in Red Bays who are related to the Indians of Florida.”

Later, the Chairman treated Rev. Newton and his group to a lunch of steamed yellow-tail and okra soup at Annie’s Poop



Rev. Newton recounts his version of Seminole history to Chief Billie.

Deck in nearby Nicoll’s Town. There, convenience store owner Nicoll Bowlegs, a handshake with Chairman Billie. “I was born six feet from this building,” laughed Bowlegs. “But I’ve always known that I first came from the Seminoles who came here from Florida 150 years ago.” According to Rev. Newton, Bowlegs is a common name on Andros; other surnames of original Seminole settlers include Lewis, McNeal, Newton and Russells.

Bahamas Tourism official Eric Cash, accompanied by Seminole descendent Perky Lightbourne, discussed opening up cultural exchange avenues between the Red Bays residents and the Florida Seminoles: “Most people recall the historical events that led to their arrival, but, unfortunately the memory of their Florida past is rapidly fading. I met with the elders of the community recently and I am determined to re-establish this settlement with its cousins in Florida.”

Cash presented a proposal to Billie calling for the establishment of a cultural/historical Seminole themed tourist attraction to help the area, which exists economically as it did more than a century ago. Though it is only 14 miles from the Andros Airport, Red Bays is not a tourist destination, says Cash. “There is an opportunity here to help these people get ahead as well as strengthen the ties between our peoples.”

Chairman Billie agreed, asking Rev. Newton to gather a group of Seminole descendants to attend the Tribe’s annual Green Corn Dance, scheduled for June 6-10 this year. “You won’t be able to participate, but you can watch and see how we practice our culture, to see how it compares to the culture you have today.

“You will be warmly treated by the Seminole people. They have been telling stories and legends about you for years. It will be exciting for us all to finally meet.”

Generations of intermarriage have thinned the Andros Island Seminoles bloodline far beyond the quantum necessary for membership in the Seminole Tribe of Florida. No such agenda exists, says Rev. Newton: “Our connection to the Seminole Indians has diminished over the years but remains very precious to us all. Thank God for this wonderful opportunity to revisit the culture of our ancestors.”

Rev. Newton’s History Of Red Bays

In 1821 the United States acquired Florida from Spain, setting the stage for three wars against the Seminole Indians. Previous to the United States taking over Florida, it had been a haven for runaway slaves from Georgia and Alabama, and these people had joined the Seminole Indians.

The Negroes now found themselves again in the position of being captured as runaway slaves and moved further and further south in Florida to escape the Americans who were moving in. They were driven to the Everglades and to Cape Sable, where they met Bahamian Privateers and pirates who told them of the free land to the east of the Bahamas as part of the British Empire having abolished slavery in 1838. In ones and twos, in their dugout canoes, the Negro Seminoles crossed the Gulf Stream and landed along the Western Shore of the Joulter Cays south over a 20-year period. Some Seminole Indians apparently also migrated as a result of their long struggle with the white men. They congregated at Red Bays, and their further history and a description of the settlement as it is today, follows.

Red Bays, a settlement of Andros Island, is a very small community. It has a population of 88 and lies North and South on the West Side of the Island.

The largest portion of the settlement is owned by the Lewis family who came from America in about 1840. The first Lewis came with his wife and children in a small boat to seek freedom, and was the grandfather of Mr. Joseph Lewis. He landed at one of the creeks, named “Blue Creek” and went about 20 miles inland, where he stayed for several years until a hurricane sent water covering a portion of the land where he was, which he named after himself, “Sammy Lewis.”

After the hurricane he came along shore until he reached the place now called “Red Bays.” He stayed there for some time and afterwards purchased about 10 acres of land. He was later joined by the other families: the Bowlegs, Russells and the McNeils. The population grew and they made a church where they used to worship God.

The 1866 hurricane did great damage to this Settlement and many houses, boats and lives were lost. It was said that as the eye of the hurricane came over the Settlement the spongers went on Red Cays to secure their sponges, and while there an argument was in progress. The tide came from the West and covered the Cay. Of the 38 men on the Cay only eight survived, the rest drowned and a part from those who were on their boats, the survivors were compelled to move to a higher part of the land. The Russells, the McNeils and the Bowlegs moved to the eastern part of the island, to Lowe Sound, Nicoll’s Town and Mastic Point where the families of many still survive.

The Lewis family moved to the Lewis Coppice south of the Red Bays. This was a high stand of timber, so high that the first man who went through it was lost for two days, which is why that part of the coppice is called “Lost Man Coppice.”

The people began to farm, and although being engaged in the sponge industry, were more successful in the fruit growing, and this made the settlement a fruit-growing center.

The late Mr. Watkins Lewis, father of Joseph Lewis, brought 65 acres of land and lived here more than 96 years before he died. Thirty acres of land was used for farming and fruit growing. Fruits were sold and exchanged in the United States by an old man, Captain Kelly, of the “Heaths Darling” who paid the people in money and clothes for the fruit and sold them in the United States. This ship used to anchor at a grass patch named “Harbour Island Grass” just abreast of the haulover, a sound inland lading out to Lowe Sound from Red Bays. Going through this sound, boats must be pulled as far as two miles to reach deeper water.

In 1899, another severe hurricane afflicted the settlement. As the wind began to come up, the men went down to secure their boats but the tide that happened in the earlier hurricane caught them unaware and separated them from the land, and it was obvious that the water could cover the spit of the land they were on. Mr. Joseph Lewis decided to swim for his life and struck out towards the settlement. But the tide carried him in a different direction and he spent two days and two nights in the water along with the frogs, snakes and other creatures, holding on to pieces of driftwood. Finally, the only survivor of the men who left the settlement, Lewis arrived at Quarter Master, a now uninhabited little settlement about four miles from Lowe Sound. The rest of the people suffered loss of crops and fruit trees, but the water never covered the settlement.

It came as far as the brow of the hill and stayed there. Another dangerous hurricane was the 1926 one. I was at the time about one year old. Many houses were broken down but there was no loss of life. Trees were broken but the inhabitants kept on planting.

After these hurricanes, things were very poor. A little supply of food and lumber was given by Government in the whole area but very little reached Red Bays. However, the people continued to succeed in their fruit growing despite all the disasters.

During the years 1935 to 1950, my father was interested in farming. About 1940 or 1943, he established a farmer’s union association and with everyone working together they made rapid progress. A team of men, women and children were seen every morning going from the settlement to the former Red Bay, where they used to work for the whole day. The chief crops were pigeon peas, beans, corn, and benny (sesame seed). As much as 60 bushels of benny were shipped into Nassau where, at the time, it was sold for a very low price of ninepence a quart. The money was spent to buy food and sold to the members of the union. Charcoal was also burned and sold, the proceeds going to union funds.

This was a great help to the people and was bring-

ing prosperity to the community until some evil-minded men got together and received the goods and never paid. This discouraged the members, and the union was broken up.

In the years 1945 and 1946 Mr. Newton launched a new idea, that of the fruit growing. The people were encouraged to select sour orange seeds and plant these into pots made from red soil earth. These seeds stayed in the earth for about two months more. When they got big enough, the sweet orange shoot was budded on to the sour orange root. This new idea proved successful and soon even the skeptics came to join the fruit-growing program. The program was carried on until the death of Mr. Newton

in 1950. He will be remembered by all for his outstanding effort for the people of Red Bays, especially those who were sometimes able to ship as much as 3-4,000 fruits per year to Nassau. The Agricultural and Marine Products Board encouraged this program and sent budding equipment, oil emulsion and spray buckets. Then Hurricane Betsy, the destroyer of 1965, came.

During the long years of the early part of the Red Bays history, there was no school, and only those people who had relatives in Lowe Sound or other settlements were able to send their children to school, the other children having to stay at home without schooling.

For this reason, many people cannot read or write even now. My father, a grade six scholar at that time, became sorry for the people and in the year 1935 applied for the position of headteacher of Red Bays. This was granted by the former Board of Education.

He was obligated to work for six months without payment. After that he was paid 12 pounds per year. He worked under these conditions for some time and was later able to have the designation of the school change from “Grant-in-Aid” school to “Public” school. The government owned no land at the settlement at that time and by the kind permission of the late Rev. Daniel Dean, the writer’s grandfather kept school in the Baptist Church for about four years. With the assistance of the community he was able to have built in 1939 a large school made by pine torch, wattles and tatch leaves. About 1941, a few bags of cement and a few pounds were given to make the floor. This building lasted for 21 years before it collapsed. Mr. Newton did all his teaching in this building and did a fine job.

After Mr. Newton’s death in 1950 (Sept. 1) the writer succeeded him and worked in the same building for six years before the first school house ever built in Red Bays was under my supervision. I also taught for five years under sun and sky with trees as shelter from sun and rain. When the present school building was finally built the following proverb was put up in it: “He who laughs last laughs best,” and again, “Wait on the Lord, be of good courage and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord.” *Psalm 27:14.*

Another outstanding deed done by my father was the road leading from the Settlement to the beach. He was the first to establish road building in Red Bays. When he came here, he saw that the Settlement of Red Bays and the nearest neighboring Settlement was made by foot-paths and tracks, between swamps and matshy pine forest, and he pitched their condition.

My Forsythe, acting as District Commissioner at that time (1937-1945), gave a grant of five pounds to start the road to the Bay. When this money was spent, Mr. Newton asked the inhabitants to give a few days work as a Community effort. This they willingly did and built the road to a distance of about one-quarter mile. Mr. Forsythe’s interest was aroused and he gave a further grant of fifteen pounds. This of course did not finish the road but more than three-quarters of a mile of it was finished.

Afterwards the road was brought to completion. Many times in rainy season when officials visited Red Bays Beach, shoes

had to be taken off at the bay because two to three feet of water had to be crossed from the bay to the settlement.

In August of 1968, the Owens Illinois Company, properly known as Bahamas Agricultural Industries Limited, generously put through a road to our settlement in order to cut the timber in our area.

The road was officially declared open by the Company at ceremonies held at Red Bays on Aug. 3, 1968, when 200 visitors came. This road immediately allowed the people to sell all of their mango crop without leaving their settlement and in the near future it is likely that bonefish enthusiasts will be coming to Red Bays for the wonderful bonefishing on our shores.

I believe that this is an appropriate spot to finish my short history, as the opening of our road brings the first chapters to a close, and will be opening up a whole new story.

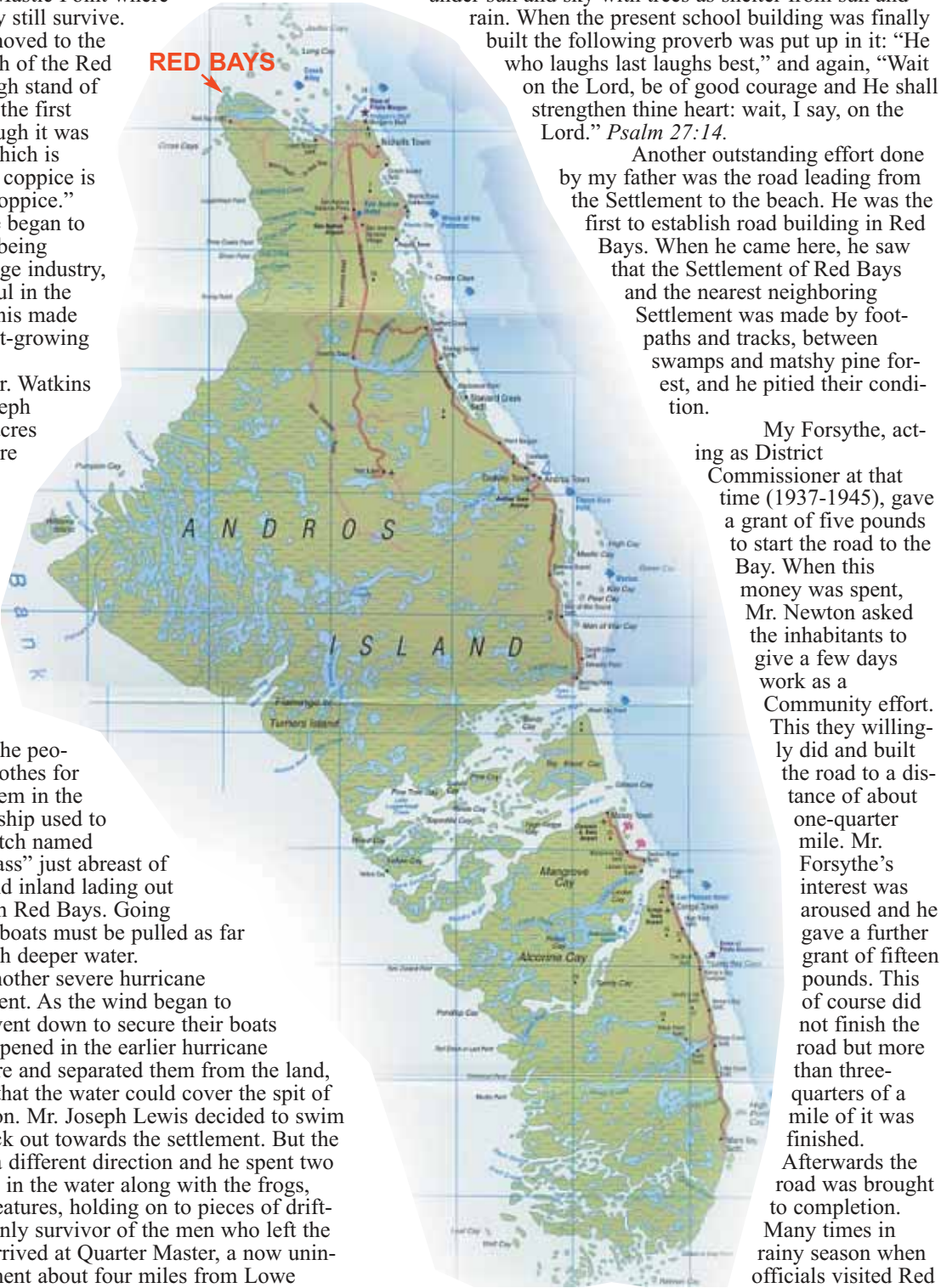
— Rev. Bertram A. Newton, 76, is a descendant of Seminoles who arrived on Andros in the 1840s. He was principal of Red Bays School for 39 1/2 years and currently is pastor of the New Salem Baptist Church. This story was written in August of 1968 and reprinted from his book, *A History of Red Bays, Andros.*



WELCOME: Town sign includes illustration of Seminole scene.

Peter B. Gallagher

RED BAYS



Peter B. Gallagher

SPORTS



Athletes try to show Jensen and the Firecats they have what it takes to play in the afl2.

Arena Football 2 Hosts Tryouts In Big Cypress

By Benny Secody
BIG CYPRESS — Arena Football has made its way to Southwest Florida for 2001. Jim Jensen, head coach of the Florida Firecats, held open tryouts in Big Cypress on Feb. 24 to fill the few remaining slots on his roster. Over 40 men, from all over the state, showed up for tryouts and paid a \$50 fee in hopes of securing an open slot on the team. The Firecats are one of the 14 new teams added to the Arena Football 2 (af2) League in its second season.

Jack Gorton, Assistant Director of Big Cypress Recreation, worked with Jensen to set up the tryouts on the Reservation. Recreation aides Debbie Hernandez and Tracey Ortega assisted in signing up candidates. On hand to encourage the contestants were 22-year-old Terrance Simmons and 31-year-old Chris MacIntosh who have already signed with the team.

Tryouts were brutal and the day was hot, but prospective players put forth their best efforts. Shuffles, pass receiving, kickoff returns, agility and endurance were only part of the exercises required by the coach.

Seminole Tribe citizens Brian Billie and Larry Motlow were among those vying for one of the coveted slots.

At the end of the day, five athletes were selected to join the spring practice team. From those 35 players, the coaching staff will pick the final 24 to make the Firecats' roster.

Jensen and his staff thanked all the contestants and offered their appreciation to the Recreation Department for organizing the event.



L/R: Brian Billie, Johnny Boone, Larry Motlow and Greg Carter.

Pro Football's Native Women

By John Harjo
Gus and Maggie are two women that put their bodies through a lot of punishment just for fun . . .
Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer ("Kahs" — pronounced GUS) and Maggie Mayo, both Mohawk, of the Iroquois Confederacy, are a part of the fledgling Women's Professional Football League (WPFL).

Last season was the WPFL's first year in operation. Kahs plays in Florida (Daytona Beach Barracudas) and Maggie plays in New York (New York Galaxy now the Syracuse Sting). Two other Mohawk women play for Syracuse — Karen Hill and Melanie Jacobs — but they could not be reached for comment.

Mayo was the first female football player in Canada, in 1983, on the 13-0 Chateaugay Raiders midget boys team. An out-of-control teenager, Mayo was advised to go into football by a child therapist, who suggested it would relive some built up anger.

Mayo won high school honors from the Greater Montreal Athletic Association for volleyball and basketball but sustained a knee injury on her way to a Cornell University basketball tryout. She then obtained a degree in Engineering from Loyalist College and Concordia University, playing as an MVP for the Kahnawake Chik Stiks hockey team in her spare time.

While on vacation in San Francisco in the fall of 1999, a TV special on the WPFL caught her fancy and she sought a tryout among 120 women in Florida on Jan. 7, 2000. Mayo was one of 12 women selected and, after several exhibitions, went on to become the starting center and noseguard playing "Iron Woman Football" for the Galaxy.

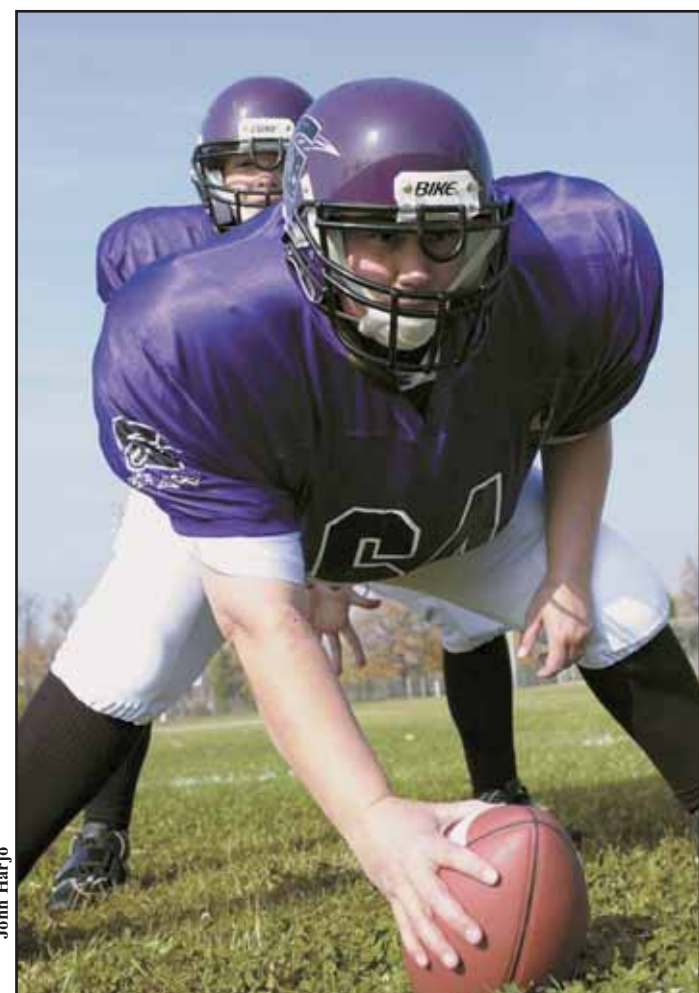
Mayo told NDN SPORTS: "I have secured the right to have my own football team within the WPFL. I had purchased that right before the league had expanded." She is still going to play for the Syracuse Sting, but will direct the Montreal Wildfire next season.

Kahs Sky-Deer was the quarterback for the Daytona Beach Barracudas during the 2000-2001 season, missing all three tryouts, but walking on to a starting position nevertheless.

Sky Deer's first love was co-ed baseball which she played as a kid on the Mohawk reserve. She says, "People kind of laughed because it was a co-ed league and they didn't think I would be good enough." She later became a two-time MVP pitcher and led her team to two consecutive championships striking out boys that didn't think she should be there.

She chose urban (predominantly white) Centennial Academy in (predominantly white) She played woman's soccer and was selected MVP of the school basketball team.

Sky Deer then discovered touch football and track (javelin, discus, and shot). As a freshman she stole the starting quarterback position from a senior by tossing four touchdowns in her first game — the job was hers from then on — and she led Centennial to the GMAA Championship.



Maggie Mayo sets to hike the football.

Following a touch football career at Vanier College, Sky Deer got a call from Maggie Mayo and a tip about the WPFL: "I couldn't believe my ears. It was a dream come true. . . I was so excited for weeks after that, I got motivated and started to go to the gym three times a week, and began to tell all my friends that I was going to play women's professional football. Many thought it was a joke, or that I wouldn't follow through with it."

Two months later, she received a recruitment letter from the Daytona Beach Barracudas. "They really buttered me up and said that there would be team houses, jobs, sponsorships, and that we would get paid \$100 a game. Three weeks later I received a call and letter from the New England Storm who wanted me to try out for their team as well, plus Maggie wanted me to play for the New York Galaxy with her, Mel and Karen (Melanie Jacobs and Karen Hill). However, my decision was made, there was no way that I would choose the snow over the Sunshine State . . ."

The 'Cudas played New England for the National Conference Championship on Jan. 6, 2001, at Dick Martin stadium in Deland, Florida (where the movie "The Waterboy" was filmed). Despite Sky Deer's WPFL's single game passing record (286 yards and four TDs) New England prevailed 29-26.

The WPFL starts again July 21, 2001. Says Sky Deer: "It would be nice to have support from all my fellow Native Americans in the area as well as other fans all across the United States and Canada."

For more information check out these websites: www.ndnsports.com, www.nygalaxy.com, www.daytonabeachbarracudas.com, and www.womenprofootball.com

— John Harjo(Seminole) is founder of NDN Sports.com.



Kahsennenhawe Sky-Deer during practice.

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EIRA Results From B.C. Rodeo

Mutton Bustin: 1st place — Kelton Smedley with a time of 8.27 seconds (10 pts.), 2nd place — Nauthkee Henry (9pts.), 3rd place — Jessi Osceola (8 pts.), 4th place — Trewston Pierce (7 pts.). **Calf Riding:** 1st place — Seth Randolph 49 sec. (10 pts.), 2nd place — Duellle Gore 43 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Ethan Gopher 3.93 (8 pts.). **Steer Riding:** 1st place — Dayne Johns 55 sec. (10 pts.), 2nd place — Roy Stewart 3.35 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Randall Osceola 2.14 (8 pts.). **Jr. Bull Riding:** 1st place — Jerome Davis 60 sec. (10 pts.), 2nd place — Jasper Thomas 5.71 (9 pts.). **Beginner Barrel Race:** 1st place — Sheyanna Osceola 18.316 sec. (10 pts.), 2nd place — Taylor Johns 19.476 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Shelby DeHass 21.074 (8 pts.), 4th place — Jessica Turtle 21.094 (7 pts.).

Bareback Riding: 1st place — Koty Brugh 65 sec. (10 pts.), 2nd place — Adam Turtle 60 (9 pts.). **Barrel Race:** 1st place — Tess Ducheneaus 17.103 (10 pts.), 2nd place — Clarissa Bowers 17.662 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Shelby Osceola 17.997 (8 pts.), 4th place — Trina Bowers 18.041 (7 pts.). **Steer Wrestling:** 1st place — Happy Jumper 4.11 (10 pts.), 2nd place — Dean Conrad 4.48 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Howard Edmonson 5.11 (8 pts.). **Novice Barrel Race:** 1st place — Jade Braswell 17.988 (10 pts.), 2nd place — Kari Kroeplin 19.618 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Marilee Johns 19.720 (8 pts.).

Saddle Bronc Riding: Ground \$ — Koty Brugh, Michael Henry, Robert Youngblood. Bull Riding: Ground \$ — Koty Brugh, Doug Fish, Austin Billie, Paul Bowers Jr., Adam Turtle, Happy Jumper Justin Gopher. **Calf Roping:** 1st place — Corbin Warren 10.96 (10 pts.), 2nd place — Howard Edmonson 11.11(9 pts.), 3rd place — Happy Jumper 14.89 (8 pts.), 4th place — Naha Jumper 18.53 (7 pts.). **Breakaway Roping:** 1st place — Shelby Osceola 19.73 (10 pts.). Ground \$ — Trina Bowers, Theresa Bowers, Jo Leigh Johns, Clarissa Bowers.

Breakaway Roping 50& Over: Grounds \$ — Billy Joe Johns, Paul Bowers, Sr., Rudy Osceola. **Team Roping:** 1st place — Marty Johns (header) and Adale Driggers (heeler) 11.24 (10 pts.), 2nd place — Michael Henry and Robert Youngblood 11.67 (9 pts.), 3rd place — Marvin Bowers and Amos Tiger 14.04 (8 pts.), 4th place — Josh Jumper and Naha Jumper 20.46 (7 pts.).

— Results submitted by Debbie DeHass.
Rodeo held on March 24 at Junior Cypress Memorial Rodeo and Entertainment Complex.

Heels, Lady Seminoles Win

Staying Up Late At The Tiger Memorial

By Janice Billie
HOLLYWOOD
— Friday evening March 30th, the Hollywood Recreation Department kicked off the 34th Annual Howard Tiger Memorial Basketball Tournament at the Gym. This tournament is dedicated to the late Seminole Tribal citizen Howard Tiger, a man who had many accomplishments in his life including an excellent career in amateur sports. One of the first members inducted into the Seminole Sports Hall of Fame, Howard Tiger is well-remembered for his athletic skills and avid love for all sports.

Winifred Tiger, wife of the late Mr. Tiger, son Vernon Tiger and daughter Rusty Tiger arrived early to initiate the official start of the tournament. After Hollywood Recreation employee Bo Young welcomed the family, teams, and spectators to the tournament he presented Mrs. Tiger with a commemorative tournament jacket and invited her to say a few words.

“Miss Winifred,” as she has been affectionately known throughout the years, spoke words of welcome and encouragement to everyone. Among other things, she commented on the longevity of this tournament, she stated “in a way it doesn’t seem like 34 years, but in some ways it seems like forever.” Admonishing the players to practice good sportsmanship and “no drugs or drinking,” she also expressed her gratitude that her late husband has been remembered in a way that offers an opportunity to our people to participate in something very positive.

Hollywood Recreation Director



Miss Winifred gets things started with the opening jumpball.

Moses Jumper Jr. also welcomed everyone to the occasion and remarked that this tournament is one of the longest-running and has been going on longer than many Native and non-Native tournaments throughout the country and is prestigious to win. He recounted the early days of the tournament when funds were not as available as they are now so the staff was small and he had to coordinate, officiate, and then the scoring table and then find a way to play with their team. Concluding his comments with a prayer, Moses turned it back over to Bo who set the stage for

Seminoles when they defeated the 2nd

The last championship game ended at 1:55 a.m. Sunday morning – factoring in Daylight Savings time it was actually 2:55 a.m. However, the entertainment value of some of these games due to the skills and showmanship of the players was well worth it.

The women’s teams were Lady Seminoles (Hollywood), Trail Women, Trail Ladies, Big Cypress, Brighton, and Good Enough (Hollywood). The men’s teams were Brighton, Big Cypress, Tar Heels (Trail), Bad Company (Big Cypress), No Fun at All (Trail), NDNS (Hollywood), and Trail One.

Every last team made an outstanding showing but as with many things in life somebody wins and somebody loses and in this case the winners were Lady



Lady Seminoles of Hollywood MVP Francine Osceola.

place finishers’ Big Cypress. Team members were Brandy Clay, Francine Osceola, Virginia Osceola, Daisy Tiger, Cassandra Osceola, Tasha Osceola, Jo Jo Osceola and Amy Dobson. Francine (The Machine) Osceola garnered the MVP Award for her superb showing on the court.

In the men’s division the Tar Heels overtook Trail One in the second half and dominated the rest of the game to win the championship. Team members were Mason Doctor, Keith Condin, Amos Huggins, Cicero Osceola, John P. Osceola, Merle Osceola and Gary Sanders. Cicero (Secret Weapon) Osceola took the men’s MVP award.

Congratulations to all the teams for an excellent display of talent and skill and to the winners for their perseverance and stamina.

action by having Miss Winifred throw the ceremonial toss and begin the first game between the Hollywood’s Lady Seminoles and Trail Women.

The tournament hosted five women’s teams and eight men’s teams from Hollywood, Big Cypress, Brighton and Trail. The games were fast and furious and little time was spent in between games, but it still lasted way into the night on both Friday and Saturday evenings.



Trail Blazers champions MVP Cicero Osceola.

Sanctioned Pool League Finishes

By Libby Blake
IMMOKALEE — The Seminole League, the first nationally sanctioned pool league held on Seminole Reservation land, ended its season March 19.

The league formed Oct. 13, 2000, in Immokalee with 7, five-person teams. Sanctioning was obtained through Billiards Congress of America (BCA).

Maria Billie was selected to serve as President and Secretary of the league and Libby Blake as Treasurer by Big Cypress Recreation Director George Grasshopper and Councilman David Cypress. Grasshopper served as Vice-President.

Teams played every Monday night at the Pool Barn (the old rope factory) located at the Seminole Youth Ranch. The \$10 per player per night fee went directly into the prize fund for distribution at the end of the season. Six of the seven original teams completed the entire season.

Final standings and individual stats were as follows: 1st place – Motown Boyz (61 wins – 23 losses) captained by Ralph Sanchez with David Billie, O.B. Osceola, Mario Posada, Raymond Mora and subs Pete Aguilar and Roy Garza; 2nd place – Seminoles (55 – 29) captained by Tony Billie with David Cypress, George Grasshopper, Randy Clay, Joe Junior Billie and sub David Bowers; 3rd place – Play’AZ (53 – 31) captained by Maria Billie with Roy Cantu, Juan Salinas, Marciano Calderon, Noey Posada and sub Charlie Cypress; 4th place – Abel’s (37 – 47) captained by Abel Salgado with Martin Garcia, Roberto Martinez, Delfino Jaimes, Angel Cintron and subs Jose Luis Ayala and Jose Gomez; 5th place – Motown Bandits (35 – 49) captained by Virginia Billie with Raymond Garza, Dale Grasshopper, Libby Blake, Roy Alvarado Jr. and sub Manuel Garza; and 6th place – Rez Runners (18 – 66) captained by

Connie Williams with Lonnie Billie, Leroy King, Geneses Osceola, Danny Billie and subs Ricky Doctor and Mike Onco. Players scoring ERO’s (Eight Run-Outs) were O.B. Osceola (3), David Billie (3), George Grasshopper (1), Virginia Billie (1), Raymond Garza (1), Roy Garza (1), Pete Aguilar (1), and David Cypress (1).

Players scoring 10-zip games were Randy Clay (1), O.B. Osceola (3), George Grasshopper (1), Joe Junior Billie (1), Abel Salgado (1), Virginia Billie (1), Raymond Garza (1), David Billie (3), Ralph Sanchez (1), and Pete Aguilar (1).

The league ended on Monday March 19 before the BCA Sunshine State Tournament. The state event was held March 22-25 at Baker’s Billiards in Tampa. Competition included scotch doubles, singles and team events. Several players from the Immokalee league and from an Okeechobee league, which included several Brighton Tribal citizens, shot their best but failed to place in the money in any of the events.

Councilman Cypress and Big Cypress and Immokalee Recreation then hosted a “thank you” tournament exclusively for the Immokalee league players on March 26. Events were held for both the men and the women in 8-ball and 9-ball competitions. Results were as follows:

Men 8-ball: 1st place – Mario Posada, 2nd place – George Grasshopper, 3rd place – David Billie, 4th place – Abel Salgado, 5th place – Raymond Mora, and 6th place – Roy Cantu.

9-ball: 1st place – Abel Salgado, 2nd place – O.B. Osceola, 3rd place – David Billie, 4th place – Randy Clay, and 5th place – Noey Posada.

Women 8-ball: 1st place – Maria Billie, 2nd place – Dale Grasshopper, and 3rd place – Libby Blake. **9-ball:** 1st place – Libby Blake, 2nd place – Virginia Billie, 3rd place – Connie Williams, and 4th place – Dale Grasshopper.

Panther

Continued from page 1

Four years ago, Jimmy McDaniel, Director of Big Cypress Hunting Adventures, a Tribal hunting enterprise, approached the Florida Panther Technical Advisory Council (which advises FWC) requesting \$2 million to replace the game killed by panthers on the stocked preserves. The request was denied.

“There’s predations occurring at Billie Swamp Safari, also at the Hunting Adventures,” said McDaniel, “I saw a big panther track here on Saturday.”

According to McDaniel, an adult panther will make two kills a week. “Sometimes we have two to eight panthers in the Safari and Hunting Adventures. They’re preying on game that’s worth something.” Indeed, McDaniel said that 137 imported fallow deer have been lost to panther predations: “At least nine kittens were raised off those deer. Three kittens were raised over the Hunting Adventures. So we’ve contributed a lot to the restocking of the panthers.”

McDaniel says he plans to petition the state again for compensation to

recover costs incurred by panthers feeding on Tribal game.

FWC scientists use tranquilizer guns to immobilize adult panthers so they can take tissue samples and fit the animals with radio collars that enable researchers to track the animals’ movements and behavior. Last November and again in April, cats sustained broken legs and had to be removed from the wild temporarily for treatment and rehabilitation. Also one cat died during the early 80s when a tranquilizer dart struck an artery and released the tranquilizer drug into the animal’s body too rapidly.

“There were two other cats that seemed okay after the capture but turned up dead a short time later,” Land said. “As unfortunate as that is, it’s not a bad record, considering we’ve performed this capture procedure 250 times on 104 different cats. We know there are risks to the cats and risks to the researchers, but the benefits definitely outweigh the risks.”

Currently, Land said, researchers are focusing their efforts on taking tissue samples from kittens in the dens, while the mother cats are away.

“We can take tissue samples and gather genetic information from 2-week-old kittens without having to tranquilize them or risk injuries,” Land said. “We’ve also placed computer chips under the skin

of 94 kittens. Those chips enable us to identify the individual animals when we encounter them again later. We know where the animal came from, its parents and offspring.

Land said that by marking the kittens early, scientists decrease the need to tranquilize and collar them as adult cats.

During the past few years, scientists have released eight female Texas cougars into the wild in south Florida to introduce new genetic material into the seriously inbred panther population. Three of the cougars are still alive, and one of them recently bore a litter of two kittens.

The offspring of the Texas cats are more energetic during captures. Unlike the pure Florida cats, which tend to climb a tree and remain in it when pursued, they tend to climb down one tree and up another, and sometimes leap from tree to tree during the pursuit.

“Both of the cats that broke their legs were offspring of the Texas cats,” Land said.

Thirty-four panthers and three Texas cougars are wearing functional radio collars at the moment. Ten others have collars that no longer transmit radio signals.

— **Brian Milsap contributed to this report.**



(L-R): Crystal Young, Joel Frank, Preston Baker, Chris Osceola, and Sonny Frank.

Frank Hits Bull’s Eye In Archery

By Janice Billie
BIG CYPRESS — Sonny Frank won the first round of qualifying shoots for a spot on Team Florida and a chance to represent the Seminole Tribe in the upcoming Native American Indigenous Games. The shoot was held on the morning of March 17 at the Big Cypress Archery Range located across from Billie Swamp Safari.

The day was extremely hot and humid as five skilled and focused competitors took to the range. Joel Frank, Chris Osceola, Sonny Frank of Hollywood and Preston Baker from Brighton shot in the over-25 men’s division and Crystal Young of Hollywood shot in the under-13 division.

The archers took aim at 16 targets set at varying distances of up to 50 yards. Each participant takes a total of three shots per target completing the course twice. Scores are calculated from the accuracy of shots landing in the designated kill zones of each target.

The range target will consist of 20 targets and slightly more stringent rules as far as equipment is concerned. Aim-enhancing aids like levels, markings on bows and strings and binoculars will be considered illegal. For a complete set of

these new and old rules contact Hollywood Recreation.

Everyone made a fine showing this hot Saturday morning and the results were as follows: 1st Place – Sonny Frank with 255 pts., 2nd Place – Chris Osceola with 238 pts., 3rd place – Joel Frank with 189 pts., and 4th place – Preston Baker with 158 pts. Crystal Young, the only one competing in the under 13 category, finished with 125 pts.

Sonny Frank stated he’s been involved in 3-D archery for about two years, but has only started practicing seriously in the last year. He hopes to make it to the Indigenous Games. Taking an instructor’s course along with his dad Joel and Hollywood Recreation’s Steve Young gave him an opportunity to hone his skills.

There will be a total of 10 qualifying shoots to determine who will be going to the games and you must have completed at least eight of these rounds. Notices and faxes will be sent to community recreation departments prior to each scheduled meet. The next meet was originally scheduled for April 7, but has been postponed until further notice. For further information contact Young at (954) 989-9457.

Big Cypress/Immokalee Bowling Tournament Results

For The Record:
NAPLES — April 1.
Regular: 1st place – Blake Osceola/Patricia Wilcox 462, 2nd place – Eugene Bowers/Mary Bowers 371, 3rd place – Weems Buck/Dana Osceola 367, 4th place – Albert Snow/Patty Snow 359, 5th place – Christian Osceola/Mary Gay Osceola 345, 6th place (tie) – Jamie Smith/Crystal Smith and Andre Jumper/Ruby Osceola 331, 8th place – Marcellus Osceola/MaryJo Micco 328, 9th place – Larne Ballentine/Patty Wilson 325.

3-6-9: 1st place – Weems Buck/Sarah Kirkland 435, 2nd place – Mike Micco/Reina Micco 405, 3rd place – Albert Snow/Lois Smith 392, 4th place – Christian Osceola/Diane Snow 384, 5th place – Parker Jones/Maria Billie 383, 6th place – Elton Shore/Crystal Smith 382, 7th place – Blake Osceola/Mabel Osceola 379, 8th place – Ronnie Doctor/Patty Snow 368, 9th place (tie) – Dennis Gonzales/Mary Bowers and George Micco/Patty Wilson 366.

Scotch Doubles: 1st place – Christian Osceola/Dawn Snow 187, 2nd place – Joey Micco/Symphoni Jumper 181, 3rd place – Marcellus Osceola/Reina Micco 173, 4th place (tie) – Andre Jumper/Patricia Wilcox and Larne Ballentine/Mabel Osceola 172, 6th place

– Buck Wilson/Dana Osceola 170, 7th place (tie) – Elton Shore/Rosie Billie, Ronnie Doctor/Lois Smith and Eugene Bowers/Crystal Smith 169, 10th place – Jamie Smith/Shana Frank 167.

No Tap: 1st place – Marcellus



Blake Osceola (center) bowled a 299 game during the regular recreation event. Blake was congratulated by Big Cypress Recreation and Youth Center Secretary Maria Billie.

Osceola/Patricia Wilcox 476, 2nd place – Eugene Bowers/Shana Frank 428, 3rd place – Woody Wilson/Michelle Osceola 426, 4th place – Matthew Tiger/Mary Bowers 420, 5th place – Blake Osceola/Maria Billie 409, 6th place – George Micco/Lenora Roberts 407, 7th place – Delwin McCowan/Patty Wilson 406, 8th place – Weems Buck/Patty Snow 392, 9th place – Sonny Frank/Symphoni Jumper 388, 10th place – Elton Shore/Rose Jones 384.

Tournament sponsored by Council Representatives Jack Smith Jr. and David Cypress and the Big Cypress and Immokalee Recreation Departments.

EIRA Reviews Rule Changes

By Tommy Benn
RODEO COUNTRY — At a special meeting held Feb. 1, EIRA Directors made two rule changes affecting participation in future events. One of the changes is a reversal of a Jan. 15 decision by this same group. That decision permitted descendants of Native Americans to join the EIRA. The Feb. 1 meeting rescinded that ruling.

All rodeo participants “must be a member of a Federally Recognized Tribe” according to the new rule. According to EIRA officials, several current competitors in the series have not provided proof of Tribal membership either by card or letter of CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) to that body.

If a participant falls in this category, they must get their Tribal membership card or letter to Debbie DeHass, EIRA Secretary, immediately via fax, U.S. Mail, mule train or pony express so it can be recorded. If competitors fail to provide this they can and will be blacklisted and will not be allowed to compete in EIRA sanctioned events.

All participants are being encouraged to check their status with DeHass since it is her records that count according to EIRA officials.

Seminole Tribe of Florida EIRA participants can receive a Tribal ID at the Hollywood Tribal office. They may be obtained through the Gaming Department or you may request a Tribal ID from the Secretary/Treasurer’s office (954) 966-6300 ext.1463 or 1462. Requests should be made for the issue of a letter of CDIB and must include permission to release it to EIRA Secretary Debbie DeHass.

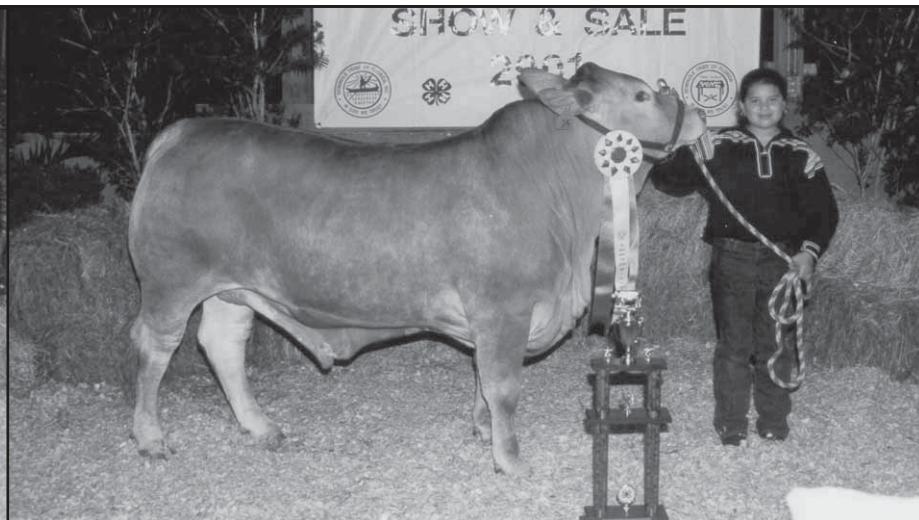
The other rule change affected the call-in time for participation in events. Officials decided to return to a two-day call-in. This will be Monday and Tuesday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. before that weekend’s rodeo. The call-in number is (954) 965-1300 ext.123.

DeHass asks if she is not available to leave a message with a phone number where you can be reached on her voice mail and she will get back with you as soon as possible.

Seminole Indian Youth Livestock Show & Sale 2001



Clint Hutchinson



Grand Champion Steer -- Mary Huff



Dayla Youngblood

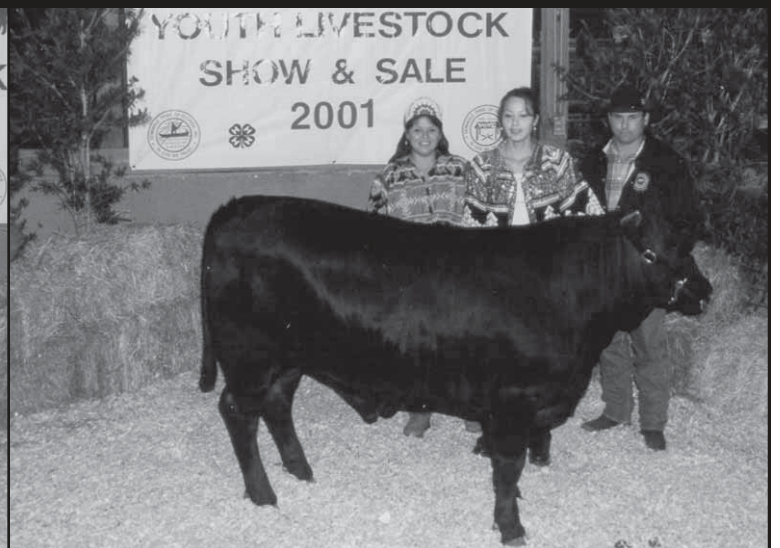
BRIGHTON



Lysandra Osceola



Reserve Champion Steer -- Holly Johns



Rachel Billie



Adam Osceola



Andrew Bowers



Brandon Billie



Clarissa Randolph



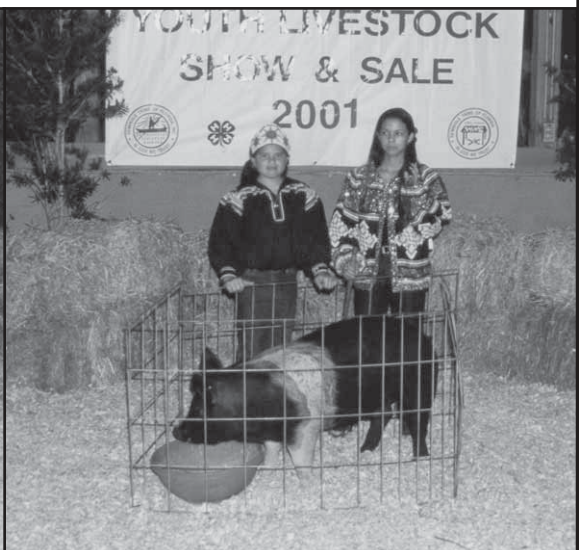
Jewel Buck



Justin Aldridge



Kerwin Miller



Keyan Osceola



Samantha Jimmie



Seth Randolph



Shaun Billie



Shyla Jones



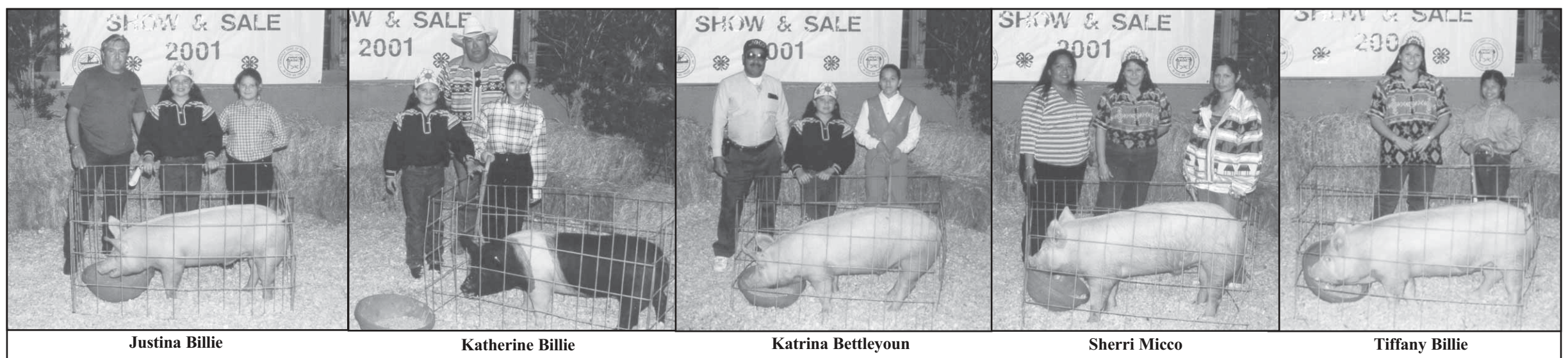
Terrance Billie



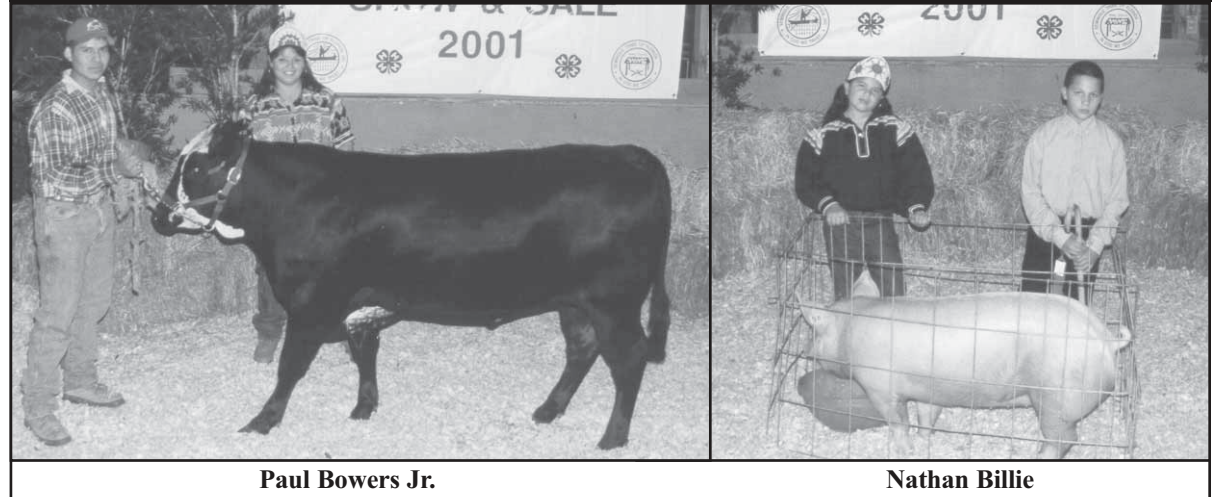
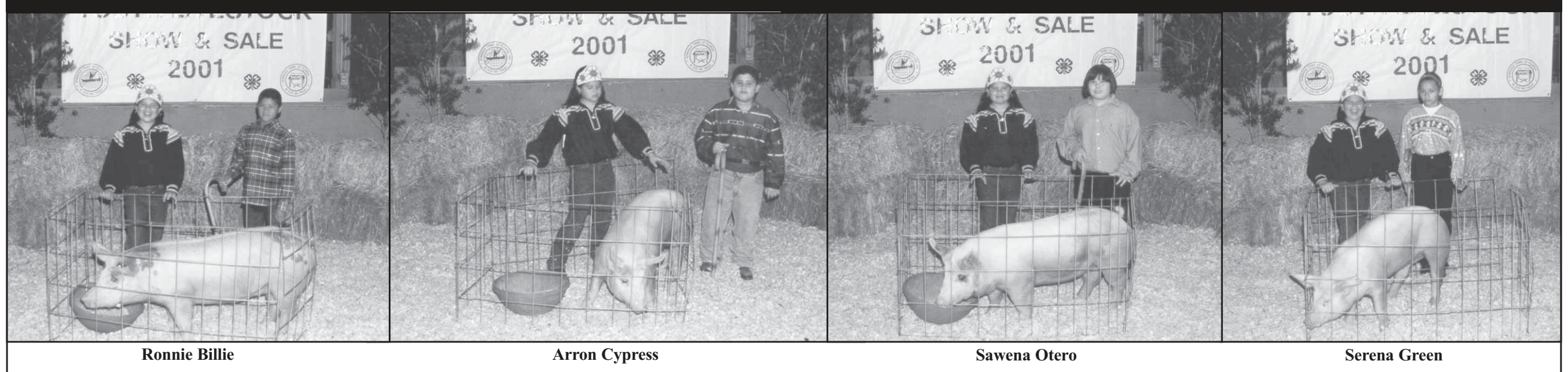
Trina Bowers



Troy Billie



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YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Catherine Jumper




INDIAN YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Jessica Turtle




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Joel Bowers



YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

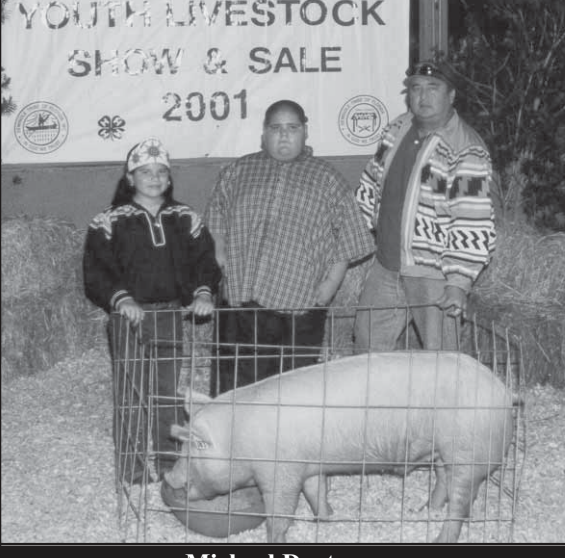
Lee Stewart



YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

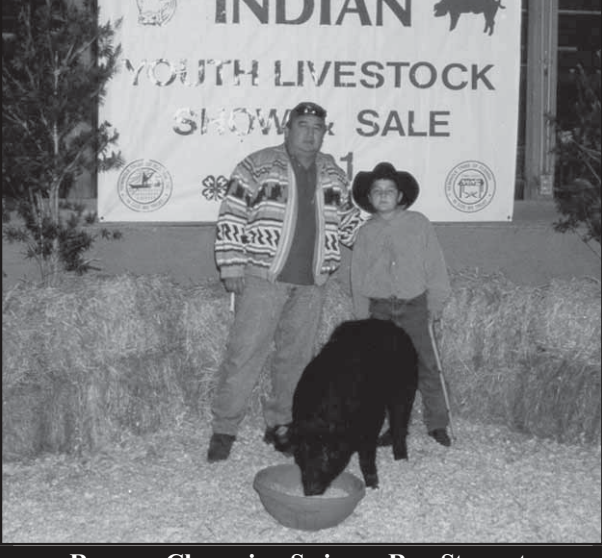
Miles Osceola

HOLLYWOOD



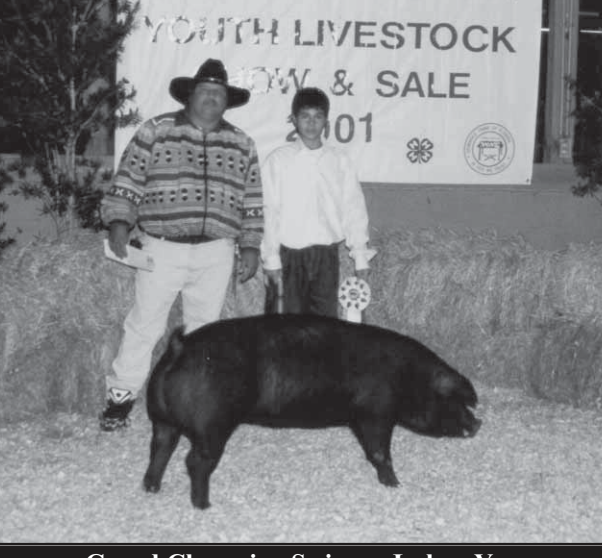
YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Michael Doctor




INDIAN YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Reserve Champion Swine -- Roy Stewart




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Grand Champion Swine -- Joshua Young




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Krystal Young




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Mirah Buster




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Nelson Osceola



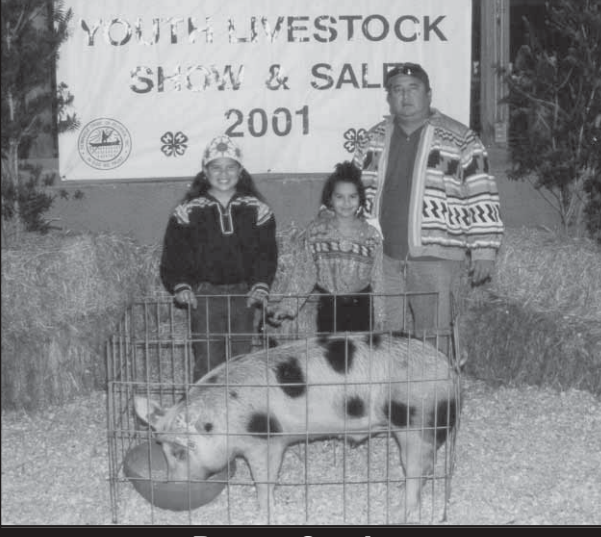
YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Nichole Osceola




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Nick Jumper




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Ravenne Osceola




YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW & SALE 2001

Shadow Billie



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Seminole Foster Care Parents Needed

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

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

Each reservation houses numerous Tribal members who are raising strong and healthy children, rich in cultural beliefs and traditional values. Some of these families have opened their doors and hearts to other children in need of their strength and guidance, and given these children the chance to share in the traditions of the Tribe. It is a lot to ask, but remember how the elders have taught us to give back some of our knowledge and strength of caring, to stand firm in what we believe in, to help one another. The love for our people has been rekindled.

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

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



Kimberely Alvarado



Lagara Marrero



Patrick Osceola

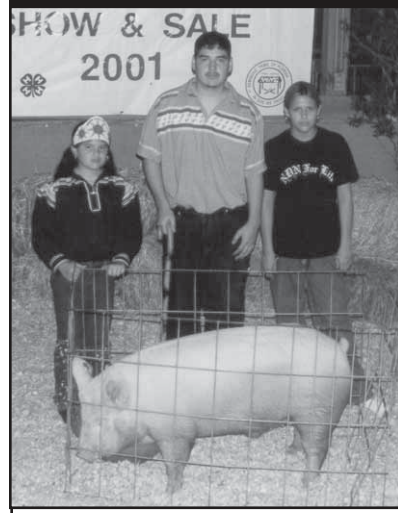


Mark Arriage



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ATTENDEES: First row, (l-r) Joe Don Billie, Terry Scott, Teresa Harris, Sally Williams, Faith McGruther, and E.K. Jones. Second row, (l-r) James Brown, Mark Patrick and Dewey Adams. Third row, (l-r) Alan Pigg, Terry Clark and Patrick Durham.

Youngsters Wanted For Wildlife Program

HOLLYWOOD — The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, which monitors fish and wildlife programs on Indian reservations, is holding its First Annual regional Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum June 25 – 29 at the Big Cypress Reservation.

The Practicum is designed to provide Native American students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the management of natural resources. It will also provide students with a chance to explore and learn about the various career opportunities that exist in the fish and wildlife field.

“We realize the future of wildlife management rests with our youngsters,” Teresa Harris, Vice President of the NAF&WS Board and Southeast Region Director said. “That’s why this youth Practicum is so important. We hope to have a good turnout.”

The Youth Practicum is open to incoming 10 – 12th grade Native American students. All applicants must be in good physical condition as physical activities are part of the program. The deadline for applications is April 25. Five Seminole students will be accepted in the program.

For more information and or an application, please call Teresa Harris at (803) 366-4792. Joe Don Billie, the Seminole Tribe’s wildlife officer and NAF&WS member can be reached at (954) 684-3080.

The planning of the Youth Practicum was one of the main topics when the NAF&WS held its Southeast 2001 Regional Conference at the Seminole Tribal

Headquarters building on March 19-22.

Along with planning the youth program, the guests also went over the issues facing tribes across the Southeast. According to Harris, the major issues facing tribal lands mirrors the problems facing wildlife agencies across the country.

“We have the same issues that the nation has to deal with,” Harris said. “We’re concerned with water conservation and quality, endangered species, wildlife management – generally the same issues that face all wildlife managers.”



Conference guests listen to speaker at meeting.

“However, we have certain special issues, such as the tribal heritage and customs that have to be considered. We try to get the tribes to work with and follow the laws and regulations. Our missions is to support tribes in the development of sound fish and wildlife management programs and policies.”

Dan McDonald

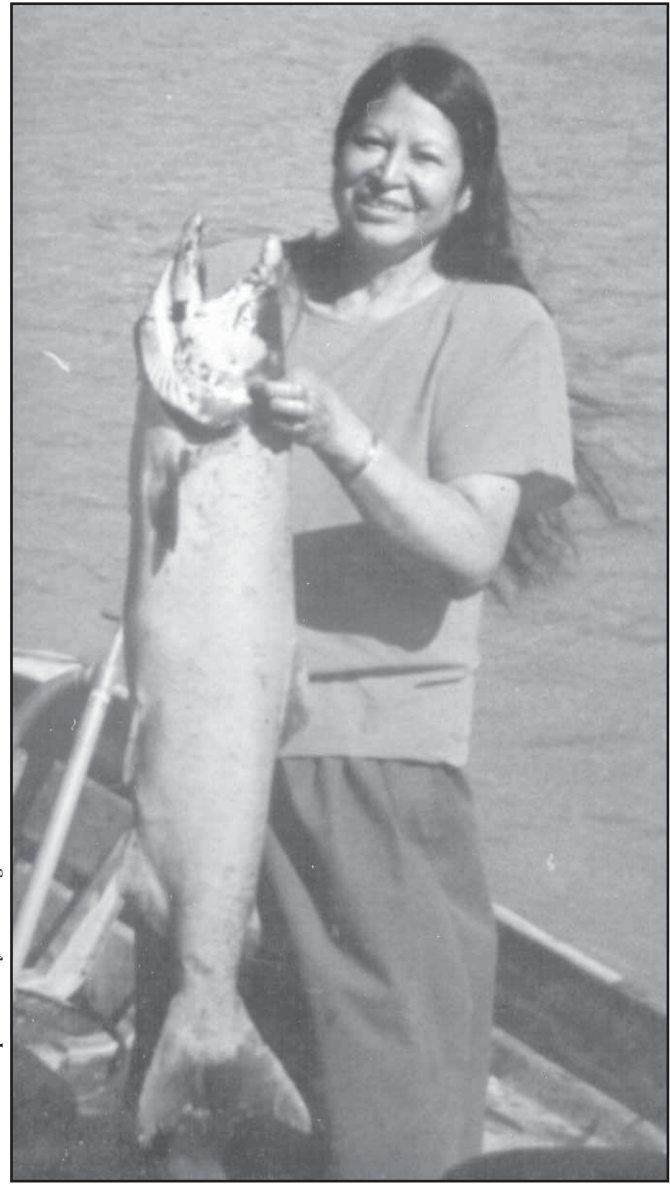
While my son and I were waiting for my husband to return from using the telephone, I took a tape recorder and began to speak into it. I told my 17-year-old son Philemon that it was just in case I blacked out. I recorded how I was feeling at the time so the doctors would have something to go by if I could not tell them when I got there. I also told Philemon to pack his bags because he was probably going with me.

When my husband got back, he told us that we had to get ready to go because the helicopter was going to be coming pretty soon. He helped me down the stairs and into our amphibious six-wheeled four-passenger ATV. They covered me with sleeping bags and then we left for the little landing strip.

The landing strip is on an island in the river about ¾ mile from our house. We crossed the frozen slough and waited in the ATV. The ATV has a cab which traps the engine heat, so we were not too cold.

In a little while, the helicopter appeared from the east, circled, then landed. At seven in the morning, it was still dark. While my husband had given them GPS coordinates to find us by, he still kept the ATV headlights shining, just in case.

The paramedic jumped out of the helicopter and checked me out in the ATV before moving me. Then Philemon and I loaded into the still-running helicopter. My husband had to stay behind to take care of the animals at the homestead. At that time we did not know what was wrong and he was hoping that it was not too serious. He thought



Linda holds salmon, but good luck was about to end.

Picture provided by Annie Tiger

Seminole In Alaska Flight For Life

The story so far: Linda Osceola Fredericks and family have lived in Alaska since the 1970s but never had a year quite like 2000. Her recurring headaches get so bad she requires emergency treatment. But, there are no roads to her homestead 70 miles deep in the frozen outback. Her husband, Mike, uses a neighbor’s radio telephone to seek help. The Army sends a helicopter . . .

that he might have to come into Fairbanks in a day or two to see how I was doing.

One of our church members works in the hospital emergency room and when she saw that I was coming in on a Medivac, she called the other members of our church right away. After being whisked from the helicopter into the hospital, I don’t remember much. One thing I do remember, though, is waking up and seeing my brothers and sisters in the Lord around me. They did not bother me with a lot of questions because they knew I could not answer them. I know now that a lot of people were praying for me, but at the time I was like a helpless baby, not knowing much of anything.

After doing some CAT-scans, the doctors found that there was some bleeding in my brain. At first they were going to send me to Anchorage, but after a while decided to send me to Seattle. We had to wait for a Lear Jet to be flown from Anchorage 350 miles away to take us to Seattle about 2,000 miles to the south.

My friend who works at the hospital sent a message to my husband over a local radio station that I had a brain bleed and was going to be flown to Seattle. My husband was working outside when he heard the news. He told me later that it was as if someone had taken a club and knocked him to his knees when he heard it. He immediately found someone to take care of the farm preparations, so he could chase after me.

The Lear Jet arrived at Fairbanks in the afternoon and we took off for Seattle. Philemon rode in the back of the jet while I was in a bed in the front. The pilots and medical attendants were the only passengers. All I could do was lay there and look at the back of the jet. The flight took a little over three hours.

Philemon was going through a lot of changes. The day before, he was living in the woods, home schooling and cross country skiing by himself on the frozen river. Suddenly he had been lifted out of the wilderness in an army helicopter and now was in a Lear Jet speeding towards a big city.

— Next issue: Linda’s condition requires surgery, and the family copes with her condition.

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POLING DOWN THE RIVER: Chief Jim Billie and family skim to the Stranahan dock.



POLE MAN: Resplendent in Seminole long shirt, Charles Hiers helps celebrate the Stranahan House's 100th year.

100 Years On The New River

FORT LAUDERDALE — Straw hats, long shirts, Seminole jackets and stylish country gowns were fashion statements on an unusual evening, March 24, when the Stranahan House celebrated its 100th anniversary on the banks of downtown's New River.

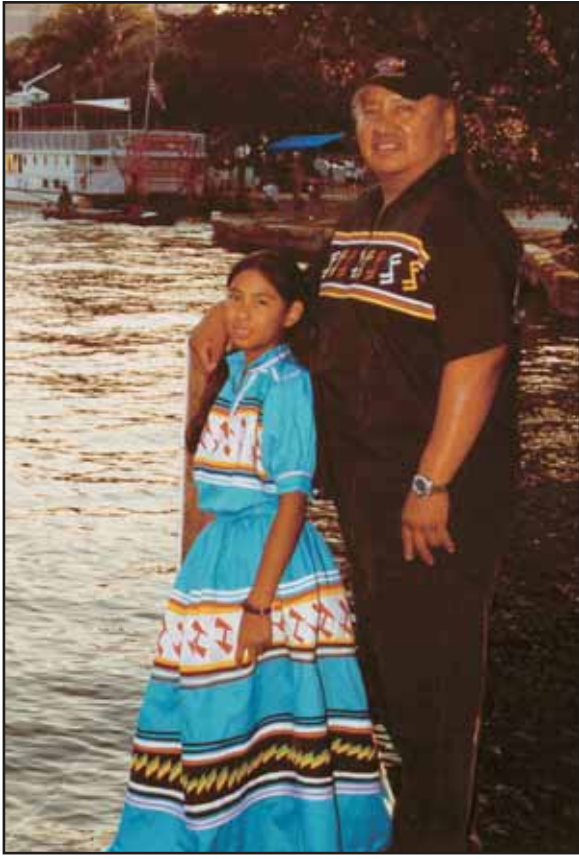
Speeches by Mayor Jim Naugle and a host of other community leaders followed a dramatic entrance by Seminole Chief Jim Billie, his brother Charles Hiers and Swamp Owl poling dugout canoes down the river at sunset. The crowd applauded for the Chief and his sons and nephew, who traversed the thin river lined with huge yachts and seawalls. Swamp Owl, resplendent in top hat, held a parasol in one hand and a fishing pole with his toes, looking over his shoulder in case the Jungle Queen might suddenly appear to "swamp" his vessel.

A gourmet buffet dinner was consumed by 400 people perched on tables all along the Stranahan's riverbank. The audience included dozens of special guest Seminole citizens, many of them elders who spent quality time here at this former trading post as children. This is one of two historic sites (See Page 24) where Seminoles first interacted with non-Indians following their isolation after the Third Seminole War.

The evening ended on a high musical note with a concert by Chief Jim Billie and band. Many in attendance had never heard the Chief's music before and he was treated royally by applause and comment. He summed up the Seminole's view of this special night with a verse from his signature song *Old Ways*:

With microchip computers and super sonic speed/ And all the newest miracles that man can yet achieve/ I'll pass on what I have learned from the days of long ago/ And the old ways will survive.

— Peter B. Gallagher



Max Osceola Jr. and daughter Megan at sunset.

Photos by Peter B. Gallagher and Tom Gallaher



(L-R) Everett Osceola, Ray Beccerra, Swamp Owl and Rene Castle helped liven up the special evening.



Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle (in straw hat) shares a moment with Chief Jim Billie on the dock.



Friendly Swamp Owl made his first public appearance since an alligator chomped his right hand last year.

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Health Corner

Family Services Target Youth Through “Choices” Program

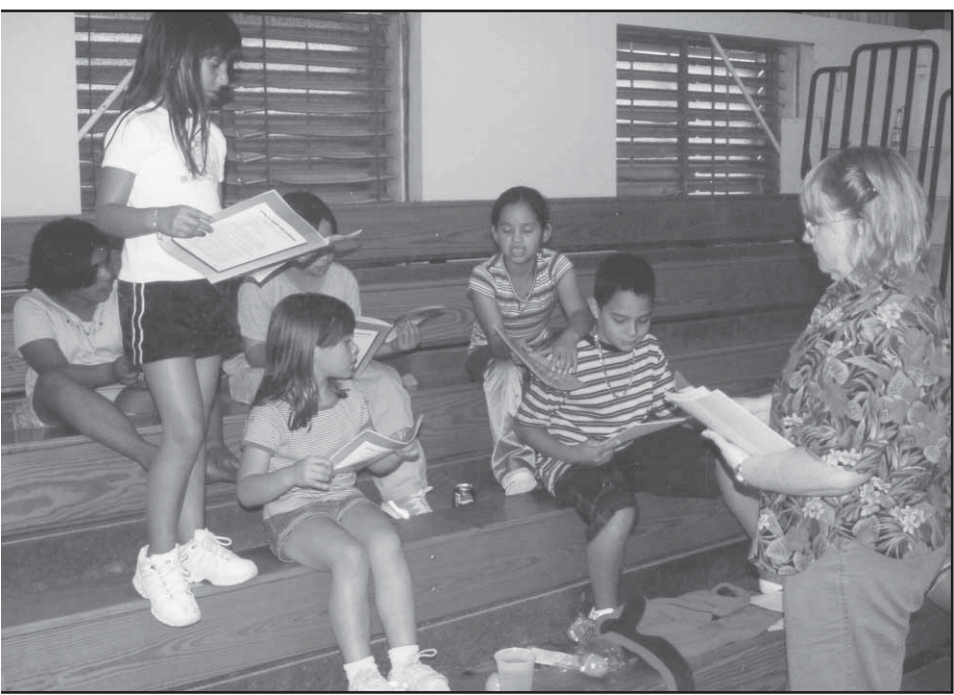
By B. Secody
IMMOKALEE — Several weeks ago the Immokalee Family Services Department implemented a program targeted at the youth population in an effort to

although parents do not attend. A certain unspoken confidentiality and camaraderie exists between participants and staff, which makes for a comfortable meeting. The youth seem to feel more at ease knowing there are others

who have experienced similar situations, and know they would not want their own personal situation discussed outside the group. The group is held every Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m., specifically for youth from five through 16 years of age at the Immokalee gym.

Once the group winds up for the day, the youth are allowed to play at the gym until the food arrives. Kentucky Fried Chicken or pizza is provided to all participants by the Immokalee Recreation Department. Occasionally, when parents come to pick up their kids, they are invited to join the group for refreshments.

Family Services is pleased with the success with the program to date and encourage parents in the area to send their children. Plans are currently being discussed by the department to expand the program to other reservations.



Family Services counselor Billie Napper provides lessons on making proper choices.

educate children and teens about the perils of drug and alcohol use. Immokalee Council and Board Representatives Elaine Aguilar and Dolores Jumper have both been instrumental in the implementation of the program.

The aptly-named “Choices” program was designed to provide alternatives to using drugs and alcohol, and help young people make wise choices about their use. Using familiar situations, Family Services counselors Benny Secody and Billie Napper use examples from everyday life to relate to the children. Tangible where displayed and spoken about. Many of the participants are able to relate to most situations discussed and identify the items in question.

Counselors have found children are knowledgeable about the repercussions of drug and alcohol abuse, and many of them have stories and instances of their own they want to share with the group. They have seen and learned by experience the dangers and risks of substance abuse. Some related personal experiences involving their own family members.

The program has been well-received by the youth and parents –



These kids find making right choices can be a fun experience.

Celebrating Health, Fitness, And Mitchell

By Libby Blake
BIG CYPRESS — The end of March is significant for two reasons. It marks the start of National Diabetes Alert week and leads to April, the birth month of Seminole Tribal President Mitchell Cypress. It is fitting that the nation celebrates a cause near and dear to Cypress’s heart.

To commemorate both events, the Health Department put on an extravaganza under a big white tent on April 2. It was a celebration of health, fitness, and the Tribal President’s birthday.

Friends and family gathered under the big top to praise, thank, and support Cypress on his special day. Combining it with a Health and Fitness Celebration was a way to introduce positive diabetes dialogue to the community. The goal was to spread the message that you can live well with diabetes by taking an active role in your health care.

“Mitchell has been an especially effective role model in demonstrating that patient attitude is of paramount importance in the overall health of the individual,” said Suzanne Davis, Health Educator



BIRTHDAY BOY: Tribal President Mitchell Cypress shows off a gift.

The Seminole Tribe has a major genetic tendency toward diabetes. According to Indian Health Services, it’s not a matter of “if” a Seminole will develop diabetes but “when.” Education and a diet and exercise program started early can help to delay the onset and debilitating consequence of the disease.

Cypress has become a role model for many in the Tribe as he fights every day to control the disease. He, and others, can be seen working out in the Big Cypress Gym on any given day under the direction of Vicky Barogiannis, a personal trainer he brought to the Reservation. Barogiannis works with any Tribal citizen who wants to get fit and exercise.

Luncheon was catered for the event and included

only healthy foods. Even the cake was lowfat and sugar-free. Davis carefully planned the menu to show how a person can eat healthy and still eat well.

For more information regarding the diabetes program, call your nearest Reservation Health Department. There are specialists on each Reservation who can help you take control of your diabetes or any health problem.

President Cypress said if he could get one wish on his birthday, it would be that his people survive and stay healthy. The Seminole will not let a disease conquer them when an entire U.S. Army couldn’t.



Tribal Health Department staff enjoy the healthy food provided to guests at event.

and organizer of the event.

“Mitchell has been extremely successful in lowering his blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol and triglyceride levels through adherence to his medication schedule and attention to exercise and eating habits.”

Numerous people took to the microphone to offer their best wishes and thanks to Cypress including Health Director Connie Whidden. Whidden thanked Mitchell for his unending support of the Health Department, his willingness to help provide the programs needed to combat diabetes within the Tribe, and for providing a positive image to all.



Florida Gulf Coast University staff man one of the booths at the Brighton Career Day festival.

2001 Annual Health And Career Day

By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON — The 2001 Annual Health and Career Day was held at the Brighton Gymnasium. Sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Health and Education Departments, the hours were between 10am and 2 pm with a continental breakfast and lunch served.

Brighton Education Counselor Louise Gopher and Health Director Connie Whidden chaired the festivities for the day. Suzanne Davis’ tireless efforts made the day a great one for all who participated.

“Objectives for this year’s event were to expose students to a variety of careers and vocations, to emphasize the importance of health as a lifelong commitment, to encourage students to set goals and stick to them, but also it is never too late to go after your dreams and ambitions, no matter your age,” said Davis.

Fifty booths were filled with representatives from seven junior colleges and major universities. Represented were Florida State University, the University of Florida, University of South Florida’s College of Nursing, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Gulf Coast University, and Indian River Community College. Career booths were staffed by representatives from Walt Disney World’s Magic Kingdom, Brighton Police Department, Brighton Volunteer Fire Department, “Tantanka” Chris Chavis a Native American World Class Wrestler, Raulerson Hospital, Seminole Indian Casino and a delegation from Florida Gov. Jeb Bush’s Council on Indian Affairs.

The students, who ranged from 1st through 12th grade, circled the building, stopping at various tables of interest. Each student received a sign-off sheet and at each career booth he or she visited, they asked to have their book signed off by the booth official. About 150 student were expected to take advantage of the day scheduled during Spring Break session.

Booth participants were asked to fill out a questionnaire for feedback, comments and sug-

gestions to improve and ensure the program’s continued success.

Seminole Tribe of Florida Board President Mitchell Cypress was on hand as were council members Jack Smith Jr. of Brighton and David Cypress of the Big Cypress Reservation. Each spoke to the young Tribal citizens stressing the value of a formal education and the importance of good health and how the two work together. A strong body and a healthy mind will make you healthy, wealthy and wise.

Davis also wanted to thank Brighton Board Representative Alex Johns, the Chairman’s Office and Brighton Recreation for their support of the program.



Volunteer Fireman Jeff Johns with son Jacoby.



Sobriety Walkers gather for group shot after their early morning walk that began at 7 a.m.

Walk For Sobriety On-Time, Early

By Janice Billie
BIG CYPRESS — Contrary to popular belief that everything runs on “Indian Time” in Seminole Country, the Sobriety Walk started right on time at 7 a.m. last Saturday. The Big Cypress Sobriety Walk was coordinated by Helen Buster, RN, at the Big Cypress Clinic and head of the Seminoles In Recovery Committee. Members of Health Education and the Diabetes Clinic assisted in putting on the event. The seven-mile walk was part of an effort to have walks on each reservation to create and encourage awareness towards living a sober and healthy lifestyle. Sometimes the walks concentrate on raising money for different things like keeping Sober House in Brighton operating.

The starting point and meeting spot was at the Henry Osceola Senior Center for registration at 6:30 a.m. The turn around point was the entrance to Billie Swamp Safari. Twenty-six participants showed up to walk and jog and support the cause of recovery from alcohol and substance abuse. Some celebrated years of sobriety, stability and a great appreciation for their quality of life.

Once the last of the walkers started arriving at the finish line, tables were set up and lunch was laid out for the tired. Of course, some took it with an easy stride and didn’t even look all that tired. This group included Big Cypress Board Rep. Manuel “Mondo” Tiger, Clifton Billie, Jimmie Osceola and a few others who did their seven miles at a steady run. Before lunch was served Suzanne Davis, Health Educator for the Tribe, gave a talk on health care for diabetics. She pointed out the extreme importance of not only a balanced diet but of an exercise program to help in fighting the deterioration of health caused by this disease.

Others in the group cited exercise as their

greatest medicine in fighting the disease of addiction. Juanita Osceola, shared that she’s been sober for over three years and attributes walking as a major factor in dealing with any kind of stress and staying focused on healthy life. Tribal President Mitchell Cypress is also a great example of someone who turned his life around from alcohol and the adverse effects of diabetes. Cypress commended the participants for showing up and praised several people like Martha Jones and Jimmie Osceola for their “take no prisoners” attitude towards maintaining their exercise programs. He wholeheartedly supports any event that increases awareness and encourages people to have a better life.

Carolyn Billie, who manages business operations for the Hollywood Board, told the group she wanted to participate in this walk to celebrate her 12 years of sobriety and her commitment to sticking to a walking program. Helene Buster thanked everyone for their participation and shared parts of her road to recovery. She talked about her current training and involvement in marathon running, something she would have never dreamed possible at one time. She also has over 12 years sobriety and is constantly working to help others and sharing her personal message of hope.

The atmosphere was positive and uplifting due to the enthusiasm displayed by everyone. The turn out was good and the hope is involvement of community members will only increase.

Helene Buster wants to let everyone know applications for the Wellness Conference in Marco Island for 2001 are being accepted at this time. Contact: Helene Buster (Big Cypress), Michele Thomas (Brighton), or Ralph Billie (Hollywood).

HUMOR

Lightning Tales

So here I am Raiford Starke driving back roads at eight in the morning when I see a mangy cat staggering all over the white line like an old drunk dog. I swung a U-turn to help the pathetic creature. Half its hair was gone. Serial emaciation. Either Rue Paul just walked by after running a marathon or the stench of near death hung in the poor kitty's air. Its eyes were swollen so shut that whiskers crisscrossed the cat's face like monofilament on an old seafarer's cast net.

I grabbed a towel and picked him up. I drove to the local animal hospital. Dr. Timothy McVet took one look at the cat, and ordered tests. I would've passed the first one, but I couldn't get the capital of Iowa correct.

"Mr. Starke," said Dr. McVet. "Nothing to worry. Your cat has no vip-lash. Your cat has an elevated vite blood count. He is in the early stages of Mad Crow, but I think ve can clear that up."

I paid McVet 250 bucks to treat and board the cat for a couple of weeks and went off to my job at the *Starkansaw Tribune* to inform all the office gals of my good deed. I even had plans to bring the mongrel to work, perched up on my shoulder like a parrot, while girls oohed and ahhed.

It was a short-lived fantasy. The phone rang. Bad news came quickly from McVet: "I'm very sorry Mr. Starke," he said, "But your new kitty expi-wierd late of last night. It turns out that he had a wery bad case of viral pneumonia. . . ."

Readers of this column know this is my life. I take hits like this every day, shake 'em off, and move on. Besides, I was late for the Chief Billie gig in Chokoloskee. I turned on the radio and the weatherman predicted rain. Then he started in on the wind conditions. I shut off the radio. I don't need any weatherman to tell me which way the wind blows.

In fact, the Sun was shining down on the stage next to the ol' Smallwood Store. The Chief blew his throat out emceeing the 97 categories of the clothing contest and told me to finish his set after about 20 minutes, menacing, dark clouds started rolling in. I thought I felt a drop of water hit my forearm.

I heard the drummer yell to the keyboard player from behind me. "You tell him!"

"Why do I always have to be the one?," the keyboard player shot back.

I turned to the drummer to see what it was all about. "Look," he said, "It's not me, you understand. It's the rest of the guys in the band. They think you should wrap this song up and get someone to strike this band gear before we get rained on."

"I got a better idea," I said, "How 'bout going to 'G' and doing 'Who'll Stop the Rain?'"

"Are you outta your mind?" he screamed, "It's not just the rain. It's the lightning."

"Aw c'mon," I said, "We won't let a few measly ions stop a Raiford Starke show, will we?"

I glanced down at my picking hand. The hairs on my forearm and knuckles were standing straight up. Next thing I see is a blinding flash and my ears began a drum solo.

Next thing you know, I'm in this pitch black tunnel and a tiny pinpoint of light at the end just

keeps getting bigger and BIGGER. Then it spits me out into a white fluffy bigger kind of place. I see a portly old hippie walking around with granny glasses and tie-dyed shirt. He turned and looked at me. I couldn't believe my eyes. It was Jerry Garcia!

Then I see John Lennon and Princess Di walk by along with JFK and Marilyn Monroe! Well I'll be. JFK really did cheat on Jackie. Then came the big shocker! From behind Cloud # 3 came a familiar four-legged critter. It was that cat! He was exactly the same as I remembered him, all mangy and rank.

"I know you," he said. "You're that man who tried to save me! You should clean your car."

I looked around at Jerry, Jimi, Marilyn, JFK, George Burns and Sam Jones. Then I peered down at the pungent pussy purring on my pant leg. Suddenly, something came whooshing right by me and nearly knocked me off of my cloud.

"Who was that, Dale Earnhardt?" I said.

"No that's Wang Wei, the Chinese pilot. He's a new arrival," said the cat. "He likes to fly around in his F-8 and scare the heck out of everybody. Look out! Here he comes again. . . ."

The turbulence got me off balance, and I started spinning round and round into a kaleidoscopic warp drive that I haven't experienced since the sixties. It didn't stop until I found myself lying face up. Everything was blurry. I could hear voices.

"Hey Raiford, can you hear me?"

"Wake up, man — don't leave us."

Everything started to come into focus and I could see all the band guys looking over me.

Whinin' Bob, Gravytrain. Sasquatch Shelly. Complainin' Jeff. "What's goin' on here?" I said.

"Man you got zapped by Bolt of lightning. We thought you were a gonner!" said Gravytrain.

"Where's Chief?" I mumbled, lapsing in and out of consciousness.

Sasquatch slapped my face and pointed to stage right where Chief Billie was furiously scribbling the words to his new song: "Raiford Crossed Over." A bunch of guitar pickers — Hollywood Dave, Dickey Betts, Ken Crawfish, Sam Tommie — were lined up to audition for "Chief, I know ol' Sunset Beach Pete showed up: "Spot. Even Leapin' Lizard and Stockbroker Took My Girl."

I wiped my eyes. There was my girlfriend Lowella with her guitar, and the Chief's arm: "You need a chick in your band, Chief. I can play the part."

The cat whispered in my ear: "You best get up, my friend. Heaven ain't gonna work for you right now." One more pass by the Chinese pilot and whooooooh I stood up and everybody cheered. The band members all gathered around me: "Thank God, Raiford. We didn't want no chick in the band," said Bob.

I started relating my out of body experience, and my brief encounter with the other side. . . .

"Wow that's pretty cool," Complainin' Jeff said the first time I paused for breath. "Oh by the way — not to change the subject — but do you have our checks?"

— *Raiford Starke is a Fort Lauderdale based guitar player who listens to Rush Limbaugh.*

RAIFORD
STARKE

Seminole Casino News

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

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

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

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

The latest poker room craze "Rack Attack"

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

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

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

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

April festivities will kick-off spring and the Easter celebration. Two special performers planned

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

The jazz doesn't stop as the casino will give away a grand prize trip for two to New Orleans including hotel and airfare.

Coconut Creek Casino announces the winner of the Harley Davidson motorcycle. At 1:15 a.m. Saturday

morning, Mr. Robert Petro of Jupiter, FL. hit it big with \$200,200 capturing the cash and the cycle. In addition, Mr. Petro continued playing and won an additional \$74,000 the same day.

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

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

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

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

Beginning in May, the casino will start new summer shuttle hours for pick-up and departure in the Fort Myers and Naples areas. Pick up a copy of the new schedule at the

casino or call Groups and Marketing Department to have one sent to you.

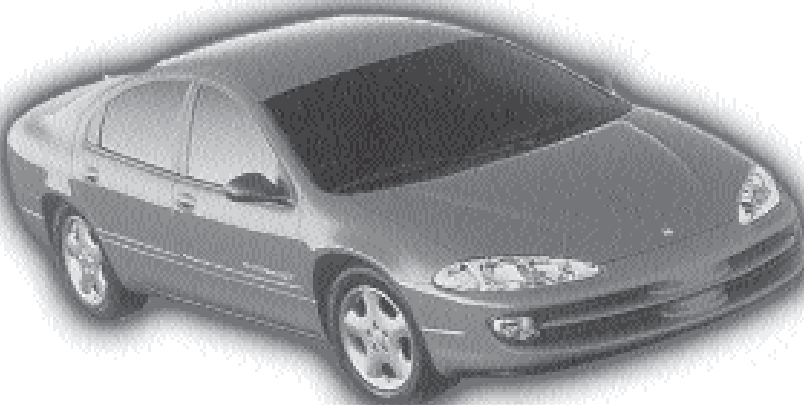
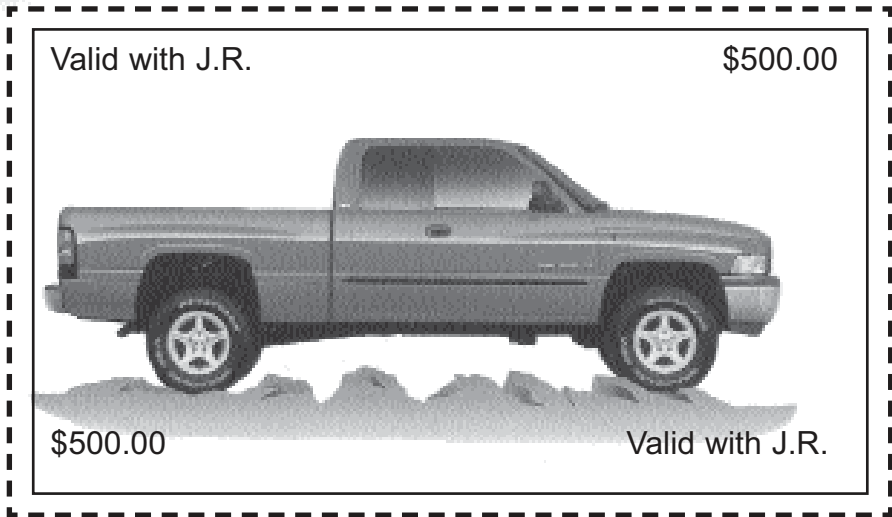
Lots of events are planned for May including a \$10,000 giveaway and a Caribbean cruise. Watch the May 4 issue of the *Tribune* for more details.

— *Compiled by Libby Blake*



LUCKY CHARM: Robert Petro of Jupiter won \$200,200 and a cycle, then \$74,000 later that day.

New Year Savings At Eddie Accardi



4224 Hwy. 441 South
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*Prices Plus Tax, Tag and Title

Eddie Accardi

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SAT 9am-4pm
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Election Announcement For Immediate Publication

The Seminole Tribe of Florida and The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., is announcing their Regular Election for the position of Tribal Council and Board of Directors Reservation Representative for the Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood Reservations. By our Tribal Constitution and Corporate Charter we are publicly announcing our Seminole Tribe of Florida Regular Election to be held on May 14, 2001.

Notice Seminole Tribal Regular Election May 14, 2001:

For Tribal Council Representatives and Board of Directors Representatives in accordance with the amended constitution and bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida: and the amended Corporate Charter of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., a Regular Election is called for the following offices, on Monday, May 14, 2001.

Seminole Tribe Of Florida & Seminole Tribe Of Florida, Inc.

Tribal Council: Board Of Directors:

Big Cypress Representative (1)

Brighton Representative (1)

Hollywood Representative (1)

Big Cypress Representative (1)

Brighton Representative (1)

Hollywood Representative (1)

Enrolled members of the Seminole Tribe who have reached their 18th birthday on or before April 15, 2001, and who have lived on any combination of the reservations and Trust Lands ten (10) month out of each year for the past four years, are eligible to vote for the positions mentioned above.

The representatives for Tribal Council and Board of Directors are voted for by residents of their respective reservations and Trust Land only.

Eligible members who wish to become candidates may obtain a petition form from one of the Tribal Offices at Brighton, Big Cypress, and Hollywood, beginning April 16, 2001 or can obtain information from the Secretary/Treasurer of the Tribal Council and Board of Directors. The completed petitions from candidates must be in the hands of the Secretary/Treasurer no later Than 5:00 p.m. on or before April 24, 2001 so that the announcement of candidates can be announced April 26, 2001.

All eligible tribal members are urged to vote!

Priscilla D. Sayen
Secretary/Treasurer

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. C-
RE: Voting List For Regular Election May 14, 2001

WHEREAS the Seminole Tribe of Florida is an organized Indian Tribe, as defined in Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934; and

WHEREAS under article IV, Section 2 of the Amended Constitution and Bylaws of the Seminole Tribe of Florida will hold a Regular Election of the Reservation Representatives for Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood to be held May 14, 2001; and

WHEREAS the Election Board will be appointed and the following names with the alternates are the appointees; and

Brighton Appointee Alternate

Judge Leoma Simmons & Diane Snow
Teller Jennie Shore & Vinson Osceola
Clerk Louise Gopher & Richard Henry

Hollywood Appointee Alternate

Judge Josphine North & Christine Nevaquaya
Teller Judy Baker & Diane Buster
Clerk Ruscilla Tiger & Vernon Tiger

Big Cypress Appointee Alternate

Judge Betty King & Virginia Tommie
Teller Caudia Doctor & Esther Buster
Clerk Sylvia Marrero & Sue Lane Bert

WHEREAS the appointees will be notified and, if decline, then the alternate will serve; and

WHEREAS the fee paid to each board member is \$1,000.00 for a total of \$9,000. The printing of the ballots and related materials is estimated at \$2,000.00 for a grand total of \$11,000. more or less.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Tribal Council of the Seminole Tribe of Florida hereby approve the names on the Election Board for the May 14, 2001, Regular Election of the Reservation Representatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Tribal Council approves the amount of \$11,000. more or less, for the fees and related materials.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution is hereby adopted after motion by _____, seconded by _____, and roll call vote as follows:

Chairman James E. Billie
Vice Chairman Mitchell Cypress
Council Representative Max B. Osceola, Jr.
Council Representative David R. Cypress
Council Representative Jack Smith, Jr.

DONE THIS 7th DAY OF March, 2001, at the Special Joint Meeting of the Tribal Council and the Board of Directors, duly convened at Hollywood, Florida, a quorum being present by a vote of __for, __against, with __ abstentions.

Chairman
TRIBAL COUNCIL

ATTEST:

Secretary/Treasurer
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA, INC. HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. BD-

WHEREAS the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., is a Federal Chartered Corporation as defined by Section 17 of the Indian Reorganization Act of June 17, 1934, as amended; and

WHEREAS under Article III, of its Bylaws of the Corporate Charter, the Board of Directors of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., will hold a Regular Election of the Reservation Representatives for Big Cypress, Brighton and Hollywood on May 14, 2001; and

WHEREAS the voting lists for residents of each reservation has been prepared for the Review of the Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS the Board of Directors of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc., desires to approve the eligible voters who have reached 18 years of age as of April 15, 2001 and are listed on the respective reservation voting lists; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Board of Directors of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc. accepts the voting lists as amended and approve the eligible voters who have reached 18 years of age as of April 15, 2001, and are listed as eligible voters on their respective reservation votinglists and any member who ques tion their eligibility are encouraged to contact the Secretary/Treasurer and/or Representative before April 27, 2001.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution is hereby adopted after motion by, seconded by, and roll call vote as follows:

President Mitchell Cypress
Vice President James E. Billie
Board Representative Manuel Tiger
Board Representative Alexander Johns
Board Representative Elton C. Baxley

DONE THIS 7th DAY OF March, 2001, at the Special Joint Meeting of the Tribal Council and the Board of Directors, duly convened at Hollywood, Florida a quorum being present by a vote of __ for, __, against, with __ abstentions.

President
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ATTEST:

Secretary/Treasurer
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Notice to Seminole Election Candidates

The *Seminole Tribune* deadline for candidate platforms, statements and photos is April 20, for inclusion in the May 4 *Tribune*. Please contact Ernie Tiger at (954) 967-3416, X1261.

Eligible Voters

- Big Cypress

Beverly Kay Alumbaugh
Marissa Kay Baker
James Junior Balentine
Jerry Lee Balentine
Dusti-Jo Ann Bert
Ernie John Bert
Georgina Kaye Bert
Jody Tigertail Bert
Minnie Tigertail Bert
Tony Shawn Bert
Alice Mckinley Billie
Alice Billie
Allen M. Billie
Almira Kathleen Billie
Amos Billie
Brian Billie
Carradine Billie
Cheyenne Bobbie Billie
Christopher Lee Billie
Clea Nel Billie
Clifton Lewis Billie
Clinton Albert Billie
Cynthia Jane Billie
Danny Billie
Eddie C. Billie
Edmond Perry Billie
Eldean Jo Billie
Frank Billie
Frank J Billie
George Billie
Henry John Billie
James Edward Billie
James Billie
Jason Lee Billie
Joe Junior Billie
Joe Don Billie
Juanita Billie
Junior Billie
Leroy Billie
Lesley Yesenia Billie
Linda Billie
Lonnie Billie
Lorraine Billie
Louise B. Billie
Mariann Ruby Billie
Marie Billie
Marilyn Sandra Billie
Markell Alan Billie
Marlin Jay Billie
Mary B. Billie
Melissa Diana Billie
Minnie Billie
Nancy Billie
Norman Jeffery Billie
Olivia Ann Billie
Osceola Mckinley Billie
Patsy Billie
Peggy Billie
Pilot Billie
Rebecca Billie
Richard D. Billie
Roger J Billie
Ronnie Billie
Rosavell Billie
Rosie Billie
Sheila Joyce Billie
Susie Jim Billie
Texas Billie
Thomas Mark Billie
Thomas Tommy Billie
Tommi Agnes Billie
Tommy Henson Billie
Vanessa Marie Billie
Virgil Billie
Nicodemus Leon Billie, Jr.
Roy Weaver Billie, Jr.
John Billie, Sr.
Marvin Jason Billie, Sr.
Nicodemus Billie, Sr.
Ronnie Bobby Billie, Sr.
Charlilee Seneca Joe Bowers
Clarissa April Bowers
David Bowers
Evelyn Bowers
Ginnie Bowers
Nadine Bowers
Neal Martin Bowers
Pauletta Jan Bowers
Richard Junior Bowers
Rosetta Jan Bowers
Paul Bowers, Jr.
Paul Bowers, Sr.
Christopher Buster
Daisy M. Buster
Dana Buster
Esther Cypress Buster
Ira Billy Buster
Paul Ferlin Buster
Sally Buster
Alvin Buster, Jr.
Jennifer Leucetria Chadwick
Mary Jean Coppedge
Erin Dawn Cornelius
Errol Trent Cornelius
Amanda Earlene Cypress
Andrea Kay Cypress
Andy Cypress
Angie Cypress
Arnold Cypress
Charles Stanley Cypress
Charlie Cypress
Clorine Cathy Cypress
David Roger Cypress
Devin Mindy Cypress
Donna Cypress
Doreen Rose Cypress
Elijah Roger Cypress
Eric Macy Cypress
Eugene Myron Cypress
Eugenia Gayle Cypress
Helena Cypress
Herbert Mills Cypress
Janice Lee Cypress
Jeannette Billie Cypress
Jeannie Cypress
Jonah Frank Cypress
Leatrice Beth Cypress
Lorraine L Cypress
Lydia L Cypress
Marcia Ann Cypress
Mary Frances Cypress
Mary Lou Cypress
Michael Barry Cypress
Michaelene Evelyn Cypress

Michele Cypress
Mitchell Cypress
Patrick Cypress
Patrina Victoria Cypress
Patsy Jane Cypress
Raymond H. Cypress
Regina Jo Cypress
Roy Henry Cypress
Sadie Tommie Cypress
Shane Cypress
Shannon Cypress
Sheli Faye Cypress
Simona Jolene Cypress
Solomon Cypress
Sue Jane Cypress
Terry Cypress
Tonina Ann Cypress
Stanley Cypress III
Stanley Cypress, Jr.
Robert Donald Cypress, Sr.
Margaret Ann Dintsch
Claudia Cypress Doctor
Martha Ann Doctor
Richard Lee Doctor
Camilla Adrienne Frank
Jeroboam Sam Frank
Joe Frank
Mabel Tiger Frank
Dale Evans Grasshopper
Jason Richard Grasshopper
Joseph Michael Grasshopper
Cherelee Kristen J Hall
Deana K Hall
Fred Hall
James Hall
Jeremiah Hall
John Hall, Sr.
Brenda Lee Henry
Joey Wahoo Henry
Michael Buck Henry
Fernando Herrera
Jose Herrera
Vera Herrera
Robert Louis Hill
Elias (Noah) Jim
Jennifer Ann Jim
Judy Ann Jim
Kaniah Lou Jim
Lenny Ray Jim
Lottie Jim
Mabel Jim
Ruth Osceola Jim
Stephen Jim
Tina Lee Jim
Violet Jim
Louis Dixie Jim, Jr.
Louis Dixie Jim, Sr.
Mary Louise Johns
Billie Johns, Sr.
Annie Pocahontas Jumper
Calvin Jumper
Cathy Myrna Jumper
Cecil Jumper
Danielle Janine Jumper
Desiree Kari Jumper
Joshua Abe Jumper
Louise Billie Jumper
Lucille Jumper
Myra C Jumper
Nelda Vanessa Jumper
Phillip Jumper
Pocahontas Huff Jumper
Sherri Jumper
Susie Cypress Jumper
Tommy Jumper
Wilcat Naha Jumper
Yvonne Mary Jumper
Moses Happy Jumper, III
Henry Jumper, Jr.
Moses Jumper, Jr.
William Lee Jumper, Jr.
Henry Jumper, Sr.
Josiah Alan Jumper, Sr.
Betty Aken King
Tj Koenes
Toi Justin Koenes
Edna Johns McDuffie
Donelda Mcduffie Mercer
Mary Magdelene C Miller
Agnes Billie Motlow
David Motlow, Sr.
Terrijo Denise Nelson
Carl Jason Osceola
Carol Osceola
Caroline Sue Osceola
Cicero Quentin Osceola
Freeman Osceola
Genesis Osceola
Glenn Emmons Osceola
Janice Martha Osceola
Joe Benjamin Osceola
Louise Georgia Osceola
Lupe Osceola
Marcus Joel Osceola
Mary Ann Osceola
Mornin Ann Osceola
Nellie Tommie Osceola
Raleigh Osceola
Randall Anthony Osceola
Rochelle Jean Osceola
Ruby Ann Osceola
Rudy Osceola
Sara Billie Osceola
Tahama Osceola
Tony Hank Osceola
Jacob Osceola, Jr.
Jacob Osceola, Sr.
Joe Osceola, Sr.
Samuel C. Osceola, Sr.
Matthew John Otero
Rita Rhea Otero
Marie Coppedge Phillips
John Franklin Robbins
Mary Jane Robbins
Tara Dale Robbins
Bernard Doyle Robbins, Jr.
Genell Roberts
Jasper Roberts
Arlene Melissa Sanders
Roberta Martinez Sherlock
Larry Smith
Mike Allen Smith
Oneva Janet Smith
Tracey Smith
Manuel (Mando) Tiger

Martha Fewell Tiger
Melissa Rose Tiger
Alfonso Guevara Tigertail
Alice Tigertail
Betty Tigertail
Cecelia Tigertail
Duane Marlon Tigertail
Little Tigertail
Louise Doctor Tigertail
Marina Rene Tigertail
Mary Foster Tigertail
Alexandra Tommie
Charlotte Linda Tommie
Daniel Tommie
Danny Tommie
Harry Tommie
Irene Tommie
Janthina Tommie
Kenneth Aguilar Tommie
Minnie (Mittie) Tommie
Norma Lee Tommie
Sally Agnes Tommie
Samuel Tommie
Virginia Pearl Tommie
Julie Balentine Tucker
Ricky Ray Tucker
Eileen Marlo Waggeberby
Mary Billie Waggeberby
Merry Lynn Waggeberby
Gary Neal Waggeberby, Jr.
Tisha Lee Walker
Bobbie Jamie Whitecloud
Cory Brookes Wilcox
Constance Williams
Frances Billie Willie
Anita Lou Yates
Louvella Eunice Yates

Brighton

Amy Johns Ashley
Rinella M. Bailey
Bobbie Jennie Baker
Charles Baker
Jason Jay Baker
Kasey B Baker
Preston Levern Baker
Tanya Marie Baker
Vernon Lee Baker
Lottie Johns Baxley
Neil Baxley
Oneva Baxley
Scott Lee Baxley
L.D. Baxley, Jr.
Timi Cherie Bearden
Agnes Johns Bert
Pernell Hosea Bert
Reese Pernell Bert
Betty Mae Billie
Carolyn Billie
Dionne N. Billie
Gary C Billie
Jack Billie
Jesse Billie
Keith D Billie
Merle Shane Billie
Robbie Devane Billie
Rosie Jane Billie
Selena Maude Billie
Sandy Billie, Jr.
Sandy Billie, Sr.
Ada Bowers
Agnes Bowers
Dan Bowers
Danette Pearl Bowers
Lillian Johns Bowers
Marian Cypress Bowers
Marvin Patrick Bowers
Norman Andy Bowers
Theresa Louise Bowers
Andrew Jackson Bowers, Jr.
Janice Kay Braswell
Perrie Brett Brugh
Arica Ann Buck
Lonnie Canard Buck
Shane Buck
Weems Buck
Micki Jolene R. Burton
Deborah Carter
Robert Ellis Chalfant
Andrea Polly Cypress
Cornelius Theodore Cypress
Louise C. Cypress
Michael Jean Cypress
Salina Nora Dorgan
Neka Lynn Garcia
Wesley Guston Garcia
Hosea Girtman, Sr
Beulah Lynn Gopher
Christie Lynn Gopher
Ethel Jean Gopher
Justin John Gopher
Lena Gopher
Leslie John Gopher
Lola Gopher
Lorene Bowers Gopher
Louise Jones Gopher
Martin Gopher
Matthew John Gopher
Myra Ellen Gopher
Rita Jayne Gopher
Sammy Gopher
Sampson Julian Gopher
Shannon Beth Gopher
Willie Gopher, Jr.
Augustina Gopher Gore
Donnie Wayne Gore
Sydney Ray Gore
Mike Hall, Sr.
Connie Margaret Haught
Mable Johns Haught
Andrea Kim Holata
Jay Elliot Holata
Kevin Quinn Holata
Smailey Snow Holata
Valerie Holata
Larry Lee Howard
Catherine Madrigal Huff
Chad Christopher Huff
Jimi Lu Huff
Lacy Morgan Huff
Lottie May Huff
Mary Alice Huff
Vickey Lynn Huff
Frank Huff, Jr.
John Wayne Huff, Jr.

John Wayne Huff, Sr. Charlene Sizi Hunsinger Jill Zan John Joe Lester John Shawn Sherwood John Alexander Patterson Johns Anthony Hank Johns Arlene Johns Billy Joe Johns Emma Vernice Johns Jennie Johns Jo Leigh Johns Joe Johns Martin Royce Johns Mary Frances Johns Monica Sue Johns Norman Eric Johns Norman Johns Stanlo Johns Stanlo Jeffery Johns Timmy Barnett Johns Todd Christopher Johns Willie Johns Wonder Johns Archie Hank Johns, Sr. Archie Hank Johns, Jr. Mollie Jolly Annette Michelle Jones Danny Scott Jones Duane Shore Jones Farrah Jones Ginger Irlene Jones Happy Jones Jennifer Louise O. Jones Johnny Jones Martha Mae Jones Oneva Osceola Jones Parker Jones Patrick Allen Jones Shule Snow Jones Stacy Marie Jones Agnes Irene Jumper Avalon Susie Jumper Joyce Jumper Pamela Irene Jumper Thomasine James Jumper Cordell D. Jumper, Sr. Gilbert Wayne King Grace Marie Koontz Elsie Tommie Lara Maggie Lara Paulette Renee Lawrence James Barnett Madrigal John J. Madrigal Mahala Ruth Madrigal Sandra McClennan Billie Micco Charlie B Micco George Barry Micco Howard Micco Jack Micco Joey Wade Micco Leon Brandon Micco Mary Jo Micco Michael Micco Reina Lou Micco Thomasine Micco Leah Johns Minnick Deanna Lynn Motlow Dallas Nunez Theresa Ann Nunez Claudia Malisa Olivarez Addie Osceola Alice Tony Osceola Billy Jimmie Osceola Dana Marie Osceola Howard Osceola Jeffery Lee Osceola Joanne Susan Osceola Johnny Osceola Larry Osceola Leanne Jo Osceola Lisa Kimberly Osceola Marvin Osceola Onnie Shore Osceola Polly Ann Osceola Ramsey Alexander Osceola Reno Adam Osceola Richard Francis Osceola Ricki Osceola Rodney Adrian Osceola Ryan John Osceola Shaun Cody Osceola Stephanie Lorraine Osceola Todd Kevin Osceola Tony Lee Osceola Vanessa Lynn Osceola Vinsona Phillip Osceola Virginia Louise Osceola Russell Osceola, Sr. Ada Pearce Rachel Bowers Pigeon Janelle K. Robinson Sarah Ann Sampson Beverly Karen Shore Eddie Shore Elton James Shore Jennie Mae Shore Nancy Shore Leoma Smith Simmons Amanda Ruby Smith Camillia Lynn Smith Crystal Gayle Smith Diane Snow Smith Elsie Johns Smith Jamie Tulane Smith Jeremy Smith Lauri Beth Smith Leona Toni Smith Lillian Joni Smith Lois Smith Lois Smith Nellie Smith Roger Smith Walter Daniels Smith Jack Smith, Jr. Jack Smith, Sr. Alice Micco Snow Diane Jim Snow Earle Jensen Snow Elbert Snow Jennie Snow Roy Snow Dollie Michele Thomas Laverne Denise Thomas Amos Tiger Billie Kerri Tiger Joe Henry Tiger Rose Marie Tiger Bessie Tommie Cynthia Marianne Tommie Eugene Ray Tommie Freddie Tommie James Tommie Jason Tommie John Wesley Tommie Juanita Smith Tommie Linda Sue Tommie Maxie Lee Tommie	Stella Marie Tommie Virginia Lee Tommie Wallace Tommie Wanda Tommie Walter Tommie, Jr. Nadine Snow Tommy Madeline Gopher Tongkeamha Johnny Tucker, Jr. Donna Madrigal Turtle Emma Jane Urbina Josephine Huff Villa Patty Johns Waldron Connie Johns Whidden Cynthia Ann Willie Brenda Scott Youngblood Bryan Kelly Youngblood Robert Taylor Youngblood Suraiya Tiffany Youngblood Hollywood Rhonda Lou Bain Judy Ann Baker Victoria Sue Baker Gustavus Adolphus Baker-IV Larnee Balentine Ollie Tiger Balentine June Lena Battiest Elton Carl Baxley Luke Baxley Windy Carla Baxley Cheyanna Pauline Bert Aaron Baulie Austin Lee Billie Barbara Billie Benjamin Billie Chawndra Jo-Ellen Billie Denise Billie Eva Cypress Billie Glory Leanne Billie Hannah Billie Ivan Jared Billie Jana Rae Elizabeth Billie Jason Don Billie July Jamie Billie Laura Billie Linda Joyce Billie Mark Billie Michael Henson Billie Michelle Louise Billie Ralph Conley Billie Rebecca Jean Billie Sally Tommie Billie Seth Adam Billie Stephanie Lee Billie Susan Erin Billie Susan Billie Twila June Billie Verna Louise Billie Vincent Billie Wanda Lee Billie Joe Paul Billie, Jr. John Billie, Jr. Peter Joe Billie, Sr. Elrod Daniel Bowers Elsie Jean Bowers Eugene V. Bowers Freeman Joe Bowers Mary Bowers Mary Bowers Mildred Booth Bowers Patricia Ann Bowers Paula Lynn Bowers Philmon Gene Bowers Steven David Bowers Wanda Faye Bowers Darline Buster Diane Buster Paul Buster Brande Elicia Clay Laura Mae Clay Michael Clay Shirley Clay Christallee Coppedge Yvonne Jane Courtney Amy Michelle Cypress Anthony Leo Cypress Billy Wm L Cypress Brenda Joy Cypress Carla Cypress Carol Frank Cypress Gail Lynn Cypress Janine Catrina Cypress Jason Cypress Katherine Courtney Cypress Monica Marie Cypress Tyrone John Cypress William Dempsey Cypress David Daniel DeHass Deborah Louise DeHass Bruce Harvey Deitz Erica Marie Deitz Vivian Angela Delgado Carlene DiCarlo Maryann Marie Doctor Minnie Billie Doctor Nathan Dean Doctor Patrick Doctor Ronnie Doctor Toka Carrie Doctor Veronica Sue Doctor Virgil Doctor Kristin Marie Drake Ronald James Drake Lewis Osceola Felton Naomi Fewell Leslie Renee Fish Alexandra Georgetown Frank Amos Thompson Frank Anthony Frank Brandon Frank Cacha-Loni Morgan Frank Cindy Jane Frank Edna Lane Frank Larry Frank Linda Marie Frank Maude Geneva Frank Sampson Phillip Frank Sunny Hayes Frank Sunshine Frank Vanessa Frank Joel Matthew Frank II Robert Bronson Frank, Jr. Joel Matthew Frank, Sr. Daniel Enoch Gopher Esther Lee Gopher Henry Jim Gopher Hyde Jim Gopher Robertta Lynn Gopher Claudette Ann Gore Connie Gowen Nathan Carl Gowen Rosie Lucy Grant Marcella Angelene Green Remus Lars Griffin Jennie Ann Harjo Paula Ann Harjo Tisha Jolene Harvey Ricardo Fortino Hernandez	Charles Billie Hiers, Sr. James Lester Holt, II Melanie Rena Huggins Gwendolyn Gay Isaac Amber Rose Jim Herbert Rainey Jim Juliet Alice Jim Linda Jim Rose Lee Jim Annie Jimmie Irene Jimmie Melinda Carla Jimmie Phillip Ira Jimmie Joletta Kay John Toby Libra John William Edward Johns Betty Katrina Jones Brandi Faithina Jones Cassandra Jones Judy Jones Linda Faye Jones Mingo Jones Coleman Jerome Josh Joshua Josh Andre David Neil Jumper Annie Osceola Jumper Betty Mae Jumper Blue Jay Jumper Boettner Roger Jumper Daniel Jumper David Jumper Elgin Gregory Jumper Harley Jumper Jerome Ray Jumper Regina Lou Jumper Rhonda Sue Jumper Roger B. Jumper Scarlett Marie Jumper Symphonie Jumper Josiah Alan Jumper, Jr. Gwendolyn Kennedy Joseph Scott Kippenberger Robert Preston Kippenberger, Jr. Melissa Jane DeVito Lacey Tina Devito Lacey Sarah Mervito McDonald Loretta Jean Micco Sam Charlie Micco Sherri Marie Micco Vincent William Micco Jerry Micco, Jr. Mabel Osceola Moses Adam James Motlow Bonnie Lou Motlow Jack Henry Motlow Timothy Henry Motlow Vince Ross Motlow David Henry Motlow, Jr. Samantha Laura Mowatt Danielle Rene Nelson Theodore Scott Nelson, Sr. Christine Elizabeth Nevaquaya Lawanna Osceola Niles Josephine Motlow North Allison Marie Osceola Betty Osceola Blake Hamilton Osceola Brian Richard Osceola Charles Anthony Osceola Christian Tyrone Osceola Christopher Scott Osceola Cornelia Osceola Curtis Allen Osceola Curtis Kent Osceola Dennis Luke Osceola Doreen Michelle Osceola Doris Osceola Earlene Nellie Tony Osceola Eric Lee Osceola Eteau Anita Osceola Everett Willie Osceola Francine Marie Osceola Gem Thorpe Osceola Geraldine Osceola Gerret William Osceola Jack (Mason) Osceola Jacqueline Kennedy Osceola Jake Hyde Osceola Jim John Osceola Jimmie O'Toole Osceola Jo-Lin Dawn Osceola Joann Osceola Jody Lynn Osceola Joe Dan Osceola Juanita Osceola Judy Ann Osceola Judybill Osceola Keith Richard Osceola Laura Mae Osceola Lawrence Richard Osceola Leah Joan Osceola Leoda Josephine Osceola Leslie Joyce Osceola Lila Jean Osceola Maggie Osceola Marie Willie Osceola Mark Steven Osceola Marl Anthony Osceola Mary Gay Osceola Matthew Paul Osceola Maydell Osceola Melissa Joy Osceola Milo Louis Osceola Mitchell Buck Osceola Moses Bernard Osceola Petties C. Osceola Raymond Osceola Richard Lyle Osceola Sally Kristie Johnette Osceola Sharon Debbie Osceola Summer Tada Osceola Tammy June Osceola Tate Charles Osceola Travis Ryan Osceola Trisha Ann Osceola Trudy Jo Osceola Virginia Osceola Wade Parrish Osceola William Thomas Osceola Willie McKinley Osceola Jimmy Hank Osceola, III Max Bill Osceola, III Dan Charlie Osceola, Jr. Jimmy Hank Osceola, Jr. Joe Osceola, Jr. Marcellus Wm Osceola, Jr. Max Bill Osceola, Jr. Dan Charlie Osceola, Sr. Marcellus Wm. Osceola, Sr. Heather Joyce Padilla Leoda Poole Leoma Jane Poore Christopher Dent Primeaux Prima Sue Primeaux Alicia Jane Sanchez Clifford Sanchez	Tony Sanchez, Jr. Danielle Avanita Sharp Edna Bowers Sharp Geneva Shore Joseph James Sisto Douglas Mitchell Smith Jimmy Stewart Smith Nettie Doctor Stewart Ruth Marie Stewart Raymond Charles Stewart, Jr. Jacob Storm Mary Jane Storm Thomas Jeffery Storm Trishana Mary Storm Thomas McGown Storm, Jr. Jamenia Talacy Thomas Latoyia Latacey Thomas Angela Susan Tiger Annie Mae Tiger Aranita Mae Tiger Clyde Howard Tiger Daissy Marie Tiger Dora Jim Tiger Ginger Ann Tiger Holly Leigh Tiger Iretta June Tiger Iris Tiger Jewel Tiger Lucille Billie Tiger Mary Tiger Ruscilla Virginia Tiger Troy Neil Tiger Vernon Winfield Tiger Virginia Billie Tiger Charles Jackson Tiger, III Rufus Tiger, Jr. James Frank Tiger, Sr. Clinton Howard Tommie Dorothy Osceola Tommie Gabriel Tommie Lawanda Yvonne Tommie Mary Ann Tommie Sally Rene Tommie Alexander Frank Tucker Anna Rose Tucker Dorothy Frank Tucker Ladonna Ann Tucker Randolph Tucker Johnny F Tucker, Sr. Donna Sue Turtle Gordon Oliver Wareham Mandy Wesley Leon Junior Wilcox Patricia Ann Wilcox Leona Tommie Williams Elsie Willie Mary Jane Willie Nancy Jane Willie Paladine Stuart Willie Shaun Preston Willie Gloria Jean Wilson Naomi Ruth Wilson Anthony Moses Young Elliott Audris Young Tous Jumper Young, Sr. Immokalee Elaine Aguilar Sheila Kay Aguilar Pedro Alvarrado Aguilar Jr. Elliot Chon Alvarado Mary Lou Alvarado Roy Alvarado, Jr. Nellie Doctor Bain Geneva Linda Mae Beletso Dorothy Alice Benson Joseph Billie Mary Jane Billie Rachel Billie Virginia Ann Billie David Billie, Jr. Gale Boone Armidia Cook Leslie Ann Correa Agnes Nanette B Cypress Margaret John Cypress Nanette Cypress Justin Davis Kennny Joe Davis Susan Renea Davis Raul Escobar, III Michelle Nina Ford Corinna Frank Donna Frank Victor Morgan Frank Barbara Ann Garza Isabell Garza Manuel Garza Nancy Osceola Garza Raymond John Garza, Sr Roy Garza, Sr Jimmy Wayne Holdiness Deloris Jimmie Helena Jimmie Johnny Lee Jimmie Ronnie Jimmie Timesia Jimmie Delores Jumper Sylvia Lee Marrero Efrain Marrero, Jr. Jennie Martinez Toni Martinez Allen Ray McInturff Josephine Medrano Marlin Rose Miller Moleana Marie Mora Larry Motlow Louise Motlow Nancy Motlow Virgil Benny Motlow Elizabeth Tiger Motla Carmalita Betsy Osceola Geraldine Lee Osceola Michelle Lynn Osceola Maxine Tucker Perez Tilda Jean Perez Lorraine Maurene Posada Eugene Douglas Roberts Lenora Marlene Roberts Rhonda Yvonne Rodriquez Mary Lee Sanchez Chris Allen Sanchez, Sr. Rafael Sanchez, Sr. Billy Lestes Walker Amy Ann Yzaguirre Cleofas Steven Yzaguirre Gil Lee Yzaguirre Jaime Lyn Yzaguirre Noah Peter Yzaguirre Norita Christine Yzaguirre Rebecca Jane Yzaguirre Cleofas Yzaguirre, Jr.	Peter Michael Anderson Margarita Alicia Baker Cleveland Baker, Jr. Bertha Sue Balentine Lesley Daniele Beer Kevin Shane Bert Ada (Etta) Cypress Billie Aja Osceola Billie Angel Nichole Billie Blossom Rosanna Billie Bobbie (Lou) Bowers Billie Carolyn Billie Caryn Billie Celeste Billie Charles Henry Billie Charlotte Ursula Billie Christina Ann Billie Ciara Desiree Billie Corey Ronald Billie Corey Justin Billie Dawn Marie Billie Don Billie Emerson Dought Billie Janel Chastity Billie Janice Billie Jason Dewayne Billie Juanita Billie Lisa Billie Louise Billie Lyle Vandell Billie Marcella Jim Billie Marcus Van Billie Mary Billie Mary Billie Nichole Lynn Billie Oliver Billie Rita Sue Billie Rosa Billie Shawn Derrick Billie Tammy Lee Billie Theodore Billie Timothy Cypress Billie Tony Billie Frank Billie, Jr. Ingram Billie, Jr. Reuben Henry Billie, Sr. Lucinda Leslie Billie-Lamb David Inghram-Billy Lydia Lois Bishop JD Bowers Jeremy Lee Bowers Karilee Bowers Lucy Marie Bowers Michael Bowers Quannah Mark Bowers Russell Casey Bowers Wendi Elizabeth Bowers Alice Toni Brady Mikey Osceola Brady Bryan Scott Bratcher Gladys J. Bratcher Lucinda Jo Buck Yahola Isaac Buck Charlotte Willa Burgess Chestnut Jackson Buster Jessica Billie Buster Robin Buster Barbara Anita Butera Madelyn Caldwell Maressa A. Cantu Miguel Cantu, Jr. Ervin Osceola Capricien Ray-Paul John Carroll Anthony Lee Cavallo Jack Elliot Chalfant Helene Johns Clay Jodi Rene Clay Joey Lee Coffman-Tiger Allen Colon Israel Osceola Colon Adrian Keith Condon Camillie Alyson Coppedge Gabriel Coppedge Gene Coppedge, Jr. Tara Osceola Courson Amy Leah Cox Peggy Jennie Cubis Brian Lee Cypress Claudine Candy Cypress Edna Jean Cypress Ericka T. Cypress Linda Cypress Louise Cypress Olivia June Cypress Sonya Ruby Cypress Tom Tommie Daniels Linda Ann Daum Ella Frances DeHass Robert Paul DeHass Shelly Lynn DeHass Timothy Alan Dehass Wilmeth Delbert DeHass, III Ruby Leitha Deitz Gladys Ronelle Doctor Jenny Doctor Leon John Doctor Patrick Lawrence Doctor David Joe Doctor, Jr. Lisa Jay Dodd Marilyn Smith Doney Adale Aaron Driggers Julie Ann Driggers Ellen Marie Eads Nicole Marie Emery Richard Billie Fewell Carol Jane Foret Anthony Benjamin Frank Diane Frank Maggie Mary Frank Nancy Osceola Frank Rena Michelle Frank Sammy Frank Christine Jimmie Franklin Linda Mae Fredrick Fredona Jean Friar Brenda Elizabeth Fuller Larry James Gann, Jr. Adrian Linderth Garcia Delois Gwyn Garcia Paula Michelle Garcia Stephanie Mamie Garcia Virginia Carmen Garcia Alexander Ratliff Garcia, Jr. Abelardo Edwin Garcia, Jr. Mary Ella Gercak Daniel Gibson Rollie Gilliam, Jr. Alana Jumper Glover Carla Susan Gopher Craig Darrin Gopher Lewis T Gopher Mariel Johanna Gopher Melissa Victoria Gopher Arnie Lou Gore James Lester Gore Patricia Lu Gore John Thomas Gore, Jr. James Edward Grant, II Martha Irene Green	Gladys Guzman Peter Andrew Hahn Terry Ann Hahn Diane Dede Hall Mike Hall, Jr. Burton Lee Harjo Deealona Denise Harjo Ike Travis Harjo John Harjo Roxie Elena Harjo Donna Susan Harmon Matthew Michael Haught Helena Henry Henrietta Osceola Henry Consuelo Herrera Stephanie Lynn Hiatt Charles Billie Hiers, Jr. Shannon Lydia Holata Minnie Tommie Howard Allen Davis Huff Tanya Kay Huff Norman Jim Huggins Savannah Joy Huggins Clifton Eugene Huggins, Jr. Johnny Lewis Jackson Eddie Jim Lorraine Jim Waylon Hank Jim Howard James Jimmie Samantha Ann Jimmie Vincent Jimmie Wendy Carolyn Jimmie Stephanie Krystina Johns Victor Johns Billie Johns, Jr. Clarissa Monique Jones Alicia Annette Josh Maurina Sallie Josh Victoria Josh Wendi Ann Juarez Jennifer Jumper John Jumper Lucinda Chrystal Jumper Martha Jean Jumper Morning Star Jumper Rosetta Ann Jumper Roy Struble Jumper Sara Mae Jumper Teresa Jumper Yvette Jumper Richard Keyser, Jr. Dalmon King, Jr. David Jerome Kippenberger Lavonne Marie Kippenberger Kenneth David Kittle, II Jesse Raymond Lara Antonio Lara, Jr. Shirley Mae MacLennan Howard J Madrigal Elijah Devaughn Marrero Jenice Jeanine Martin Anthony Kevin Maus Gary Kirk McInturff Melissa Ann Metcalf Leta Jean Micco Rita Carol Micco Virginia May Mitchell Mary Moore Franklin James Moore, Jr. David Wayne Morehouse Halbert Ellis Morehouse Mary Lucille Morehouse Curtis Knight Motlow Davina Marie Motlow Tamecia (Clarence) Motlow Thomason Motlow Adam Earl Nelson Andrea Dee Nelson Angela Marie Nelson Carolee Jeanette Nelson David Earl Nelson Wayne Stewart Nelson Henry Samuel Nelson, III Henry Samuel Nelson, Jr. Theodore Scott Nelson, Jr. Noella Dyan Nunez David Nunez, Jr. Daniel Nunez, Sr. Michael Leo Onco, Jr. Adam King Osceola Alice Osceola Amy Osceola Angelo Daniel Osceola Anita Osceola Anita Marie Osceola Anthony Lee Osceola Bobby Osceola Candice Sharon Osceola Caroline Marlene Osceola Charlie Scott Osceola Curtis Cory Osceola Cynthia Jane Osceola Daniel Travor Osceola David Bruce Osceola Dawn Marie Osceola Diane Osceola Douglas Mckinley Osceola Douglas Mckinley Osceola Duane Howdy Osceola Duane Richard Osceola Eugenia Lillian Osceola Florence Abigail Osceola Frances Jumper Osceola Glوريا Lois Osceola Guy Robert Osceola Helen Osceola Howard Darrin Osceola Janie Roberts Osceola Jamieann Mckenzie Osceola Jane Jim Osceola Jason Gabriel Osceola Jason Todd Osceola Jennifer Sue Osceola Jimmie Scott Osceola Justin Travis Osceola Karlie Jo Osceola Larry Osceola Leo Dean Osceola Melody Ann Osceola Morningstar Osceola Natoshia Rexanne Osceola Patricia Lynn Osceola Peggy Kim Osceola Ray Osceola Ricky James Osceola Tina Marie Osceola Vendenia Osceola Victoria Christine T. Osceola Wayne Nelson Osceola William Osceola Guy Robert Osceola, II Albert Osceola, Jr. Charlie Osceola, Jr. John Mckinley Osceola, Jr. Ob White Osceola, Jr. Samuel C Osceola, Jr. Albert Osceola, Sr. Ob White Osceola, Sr.	Emily Raissa Osceola-Branch Jimmy Joe Pacheco Naomi Pacheco Caryn Elizabeth Pelkey Frances Jimmie Pelkey Nicole Danyl Pelkey Diane Yzaguirre Pequeno Juanita Pequeno Loretta Ann Peterson Stephanie Lynn Philpott Miriam Pizana Christopher Lee Plunkett Billie Jo Porter Maggie Billie Porter Anson Paul Randall Seth Wade Robbins Janieve A. Robenstein Diane Marie Roberts Elizabeth Shore Roberts Leona Roberts Patapony Root, Jr. Pittman Jason Sanchez Jeremiah Lee Sanchez Stacey Lynn Sanchez Randy Santiago Priscilla Doctor Sayen Susy Marie Sedotal Brian Grant Shore Brown Shore Jim Shore Chisa Ann Sisneroz Connie Slavik Delia Marlene Smith Derrick Smith Edith Ann Smith Jackie Leona Smith Jahna Tucson Smith Kelly Rene Smith Crystal Leshun Sneed Sheree Denise Sneed Davee Lee Snow David Lester Snow Dawn Marie Snow Patty Jeanelle Snow Valerie Snow Shirley Ann Sotelo-Diaz David Allen Stivers Peggy Stivers Robert Allen Stivers Antillis Nehemiah Stockton Jane Barbara Stockton Kassim Artemus Stockton Onesimus Matthias Stockton Dean Tommie Stokes, Sr. Alice Johns Steele Frances Jumper Teele Cecelia Allison Thomas Edward Tiger Eric Lee Tiger Imahaggi Tiger Joseph Quinn Tiger Kashane Stephen Tiger Mahokin Tiger Manuel Dwight Tiger Michael Dwight Tiger Summer Leigh Anne Tiger Charlie Jackson Tiger, Jr. Shavonta Javoy Timothy Tirell Otavius Timothy Tremaine N Timothy Alexander Rodregus Tommie Barnabas Tommie Carlton Dontu Tommie Ebony Lasha Tommie Howard Ernest Tommie Karen Marie Tommie Kevin Tommie Kinya Tommie Marie Tommie Marlon Lorenzo Tommie Mary Lucy Tommie Mike Tommie O'Hara Marcellus Tommie Shamy T Tommie Sylvia Ann Tommie Tammy Eyevette Tommie Virginia Mae Tommie Willie Gene Tommie Wovoka Ian Tommie Jerry Mann Tommie, Jr. Kevin Desmond Tommie, Jr. Marty Maurice Tommie, Sr. Catinna Laurel Tubby Alfred Roy Tucker Alice Tucker Adam Ray Turtle Dennis Osceola Whitaker Margaret Wilcox Amanda Janiene Williams Jeffery Sam Willie Kimberly Carol Willie Marla Henry Wilson Megan Jonelle Yescas Ryan Dane Yescas Dean Cameron Youngblood Rita Michelle Youngman Brian Manuel Zepeda Douglas Cory Zepeda Lee Anthony Zepeda Pedro Osceola Zepeda Wanda Joyce Zepeda
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In five minutes they will be on a school bus.
Somebody on the bus may ask them if they want to try drugs.



Now would be a good time to talk to them.

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

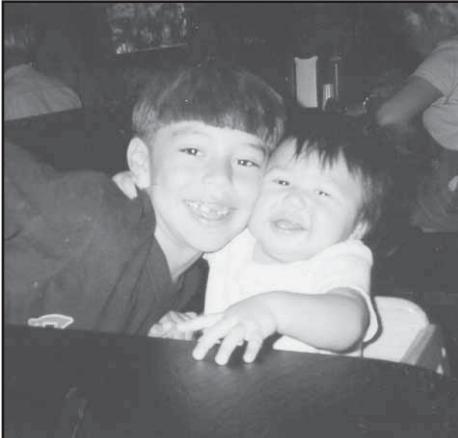
For more information on talking to your kids about drugs, please call 1.800.788.2800.

Communication. The Anti-Drug.

Office of National Drug Control Policy
www.theantidrug.com

Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday



Happy 1st Birthday to Mariah Smith! We thank God for bringing you into our lives. Love **Mom** and **Jonathan**.



Happy 5th Birthday Mailini. With all my heart I wish you on this special day a wonderful Happy Birthday. Your **Nana** will always love you.

Education Notice

The GED test will be given in Big Cypress at the Learning Resource Center on April 23, 24, 25. The deadline to sign up and pay is April 17. Contact Nena Bolan (863) 983-6659.

Notices

Thirteenth Annual American Indian Culture Days: Saturday & Sunday 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. May 19 & 20, 2001. Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Park Blvd. & Presidents Way. 10 a.m. Kumeyaay Bird Singers, 10:30 a.m. Deh Gah School Drummers and Dancers Fort Providence, Nwt, Canada, 11:15 a.m. Danza Ocoelotl Aztec Dancers, Noon Tracey Lee Nelson and Native Blues. Powwow – All Drums Welcome! — 1 p.m. Gourd Dancing: Wayne Beebe, Head Dancers, 1:45 p.m. Grand Entry: Host Drum: Hale & Company, Los Angeles, CA. Emcee: Junior White Cloud, Arena Director: Ral Christman, Head Man Dancer: Gilbert Sanchez-Allrunner, Head/Women Dancer: Sonya Ramirez, Head Young Woman Dancer: Billie George, Head Young Man Dancer: Shane Craddock. 5:30 p.m. Seven Mile Elementary Apache Crown Dancers from Fort Preservation, Arizona.

Your Tears Needed — On behalf of 4 Nations PHA Advisory Council in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Our organization educates youth on addictions and HIV. Currently, we are undertaking a project in which we will need 40,000 Black Obsidian stones (Apache Tears). These stones will be used as a visual reminder of the 40,000 persons diagnosed with HIV in Canada. The stones will be taken to reservations and conferences as a teaching tool for youth on HIV and AIDS, much like the AIDS quilt idea, with particular emphasis on Aboriginal communities (one of the fastest rising groups contracting HIV at this time).

Your donation of some or all of these Apache Tears would be greatly appreciated, and would help us immensely in the battle against new infections by education. Should you wish to donate, please use the following mailing address: Quinn Wade, 4 Nations PHA Advisory Council, 14 Myrtle Street, Apt 2, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2Y01E6.AA. The not for profit registration number is 3028304 (Nova Scotia Joint Stocks).

Poem

"I Can Hear The Wind"

A lot of my songs and poetry comes from places where you might least expect. Places like the cypress swamps at Big Cypress. I would take a walk in the swamps making sure that I dodge all the wasps nests, spider webs, and especially where I am stepping.

I stop and listen to God's sounds, it is the most beautiful music and nature to me. I look up in the trees where a squirrel has his little den or an owl looking at me with his fierce looking eyes. I can hear the birds making their sounds, I guess you might say "God's nature of Orchestra."

Here is one of my poems that I derived from my swamp ventures:

"I can hear the wind blowin' thru the cypress trees. I can hear the melody rhetorically in the gentle breeze.

Apparitional phenomenon maybe surmise what you will. Neophyte soul to the cause festoonity leaves you unfill.

I can hear the rain brewing in the atmosphere. I can sense the rudiment of the honeybee's toil and fear.

Close your eyes with me and listen to the wind.

Close your eyes with me let God's nature be your friend."

— **Cowbone**

Personals

Searching for Timiteo

Marin. Last known residence was Brighton Seminole Reservation. If you know where Timmy can be located or can get a message to him that I am trying to locate him, I would appreciate it.

This is in reference to an emergency of concern. You may contact me by email at KatharineLynne@hotmail.com. Thanks, **Jessica Harden.**

Health Notice

Dear Seminole Tribal Member:

As of April 1, 2001, you should be using your Seminole Tribe Member Health Plan Card. Your new card works like the one you have, and will have the

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

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

The new card will not effect the doctors or providers that you currently see, as long as they are a member of one

of the preferred provider organizations, BeechStreet, Community Health Providers, DenteMax, and SAV-RX. When a provider calls to verify your

health benefits, the provider will be asked if they are a member of BeechStreet, Community Health Partners, DenteMax, or SAV-RX. The new card that you will receive

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

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



Where Do I Get A New Insurance Card?

You may pick up your new insurance card at the following locations:

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

If you have any questions about your new card or have not received your card, please contact the Hollywood Seminole Health Department Managed Care Staff at (954) 962-2009.

Congratulations

Congratulations newlyweds **Vinson** and **Camellia** on Dec. 2, 2000 in Las Vegas, Nev. Love and best wishes. Family, friends and the **Brighton Community.**



Deadlines

Seminole Tribune

May 4 Issue • Deadline April 20

May 25 Issue • Deadline May 11

June 15 Issue • Deadline June 1

Seminole Talent Search

A Ka Som Hu Toom Meech Ka: You Are Very Talented!

Did you know that you have numerous abilities, talents, and gifts that God gave you to exhibit? I believe that God spends more time with us Seminoles and all Native Americans in giving us His blessings in talents and abilities. Many of our people are multi-talented – you have been blessed with ambidextrousness, if you will.

I believe that it's about time we showcase our people's abilities and talents. We do have enormous and tremendous gifts that God instilled in us and it's a shame to let it go unnoticed and many times wasted.

A couple of weeks ago Ambassador for the Seminole Tribe Mr.

Joe Dan Osceola and I spoke about having a talent display among our own people in the Tribe. We have not set a date for this activity, as of today, but we will make it known to you as soon as we can.

I know that many of our people have made efforts to show their talents. But, there are many more of you in the Seminole Tribe that are dormant with your talents and abilities. We want to give you an opportunity to show your God-given talent and be proud of it.

If you can sew those beautiful Seminole clothes, patchwork or if you can carve wood or paint pictures, we do want you to show it. There are many of you that write poetry or songs or stories.

There are people who create dancing cars and trucks, high-powered sound systems. There are kids that can ride tricks on their bikes, skateboards and scooters. Then there are athletes, cowboys, cowgirls, alligator wrestlers, singers and musicians. William Cypress and Lil' William Osceola have a western Indian dancing and singing duo.

There's a whole lot more talented Tribal citizens that I can't remember to name, but I sure hope that you will participate in our endeavor. Haw-en-ka-sha!

Hem-mung-ala-ka Cowbone

Job Announcements

Job Title: A-Built/CAD Drafter
Open Date: Jan. 8, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Hollywood, Utilities
Salary: \$26,000 annually w/benefits

Job Title: Gaming Inspector
Open Date: Nov. 7, 2000
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Hollywood
Salary: \$26,000 annually w/benefits

Job Title: Patient Accounts Coord.
Open Date: Nov. 7, 2000
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health/Mgd. Care, BC
Salary: NA

Job Title: Patient Services Clerk
Open Date: Nov. 7, 2000
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health/Mgd. Care, BC
Salary: \$18,720 annually w/benefits

Job Title: Secretary
Open Date: Jan. 2, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Housing, Hollywood
Salary: \$25,500 with benefits

Job Title: Counselor
Open Date: Nov. 7, 2000
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Family Services, Brtn.
Salary: Negotiable

Job Title: Accounts Payable

Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: \$18,720 with benefits

Job Title: Gaming Investigator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Gaming, Hollywood
Salary: \$19,650 with benefits

Job Title: Community Health Educator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: \$30,000 annually w/benefits

Job Title: Dental Assistant
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: \$24,960 annually w/benefits

Job Title: HR Assistant/Background Investigator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Human Resources, Hollywood
Salary: \$23,920 annually w/benefits

Job Title: Nutritionist
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: \$35,000 annually

w/benefits

Job Title: Site Manager
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Hotmeals, Hollywood
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Job Title: Transporter
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Location: Health, Hollywood
Salary: Negotiable with benefits

Job Title: Tribal Clerk /Admin. Assistant
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$24,960 with benefits
Location: Secretary Treasurer's Office, Hollywood

Job Title: Surveillance Operator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits
Location: Gaming, Brighton

Job Title: Medical Receptionist
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$18,740 with benefits
Location: Health, Brighton

Job Title: Operator/Maintenance Trainee
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits
Location: Utilities, Brighton

Job Title: Tribal Counselor
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$20,300 with benefits
Location: Family Services, Brighton

Job Title: Tribal Outreach/Worker
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$20,300 with benefits
Location: Family Services, Brighton

Job Title: Custodian
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$15,600 with benefits
Location: Ahfachkee, BC

Job Title: Medical Social Worker
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: Negotiable with benefits
Location: Family Services, BC

Job Title: Permanent Sub. Teacher
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$12.50 per hr w/benefits

Job Title: Secretary
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$16,640 with benefits
Location: Family Services, BC

Job Title: Teachers Aide
Open Date: March 28, 2001

Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$13,644 w/ benefits

Job Title: Surveillance Operator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$13,644 w/benefits
Location: Gaming, Coconut Creek

Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$28,120 with benefits
Location: Cultural Education, Immokalee

Job Title: Gaming Clerk
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$17,200 w/ benefits
Location: Gaming, Immokalee

Job Title: Surveillance Operator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits
Location: Gaming, Immokalee

Job Title: Teacher Aide 3/4 yr. class
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$18,150 with benefits
Location: Preschool Program, Immokalee

Job Title: Surveillance Operator
Open Date: March 28, 2001
Close Date: Until Filled
Salary: \$17,680 with benefits
Location: Gaming, Tampa

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Chickee Baptist Church

64th Ave. and Josie Billie
Hollywood Seminole Reservation

Sunday Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship 6 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

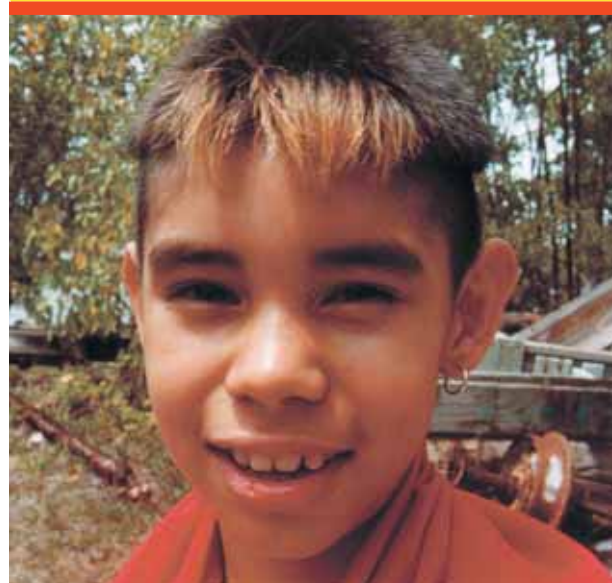
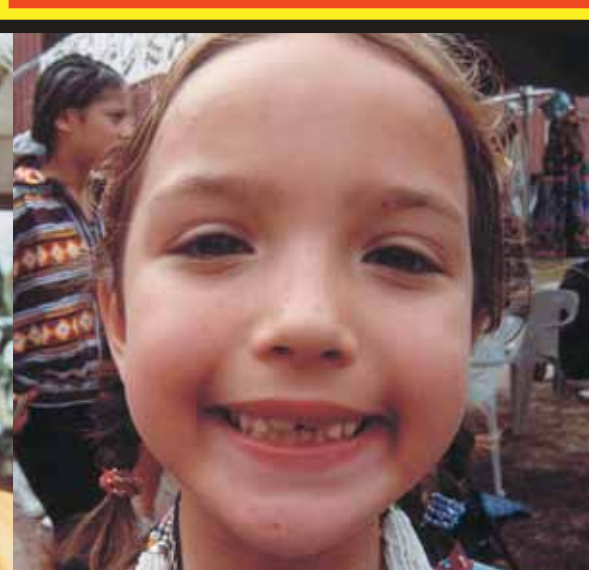
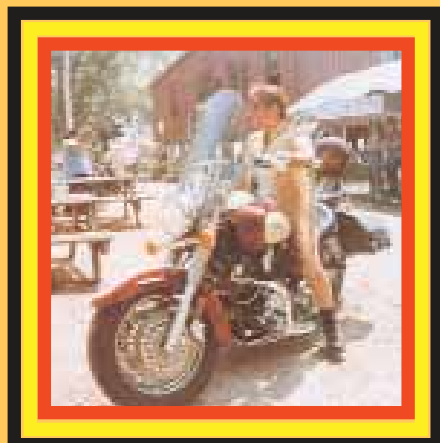
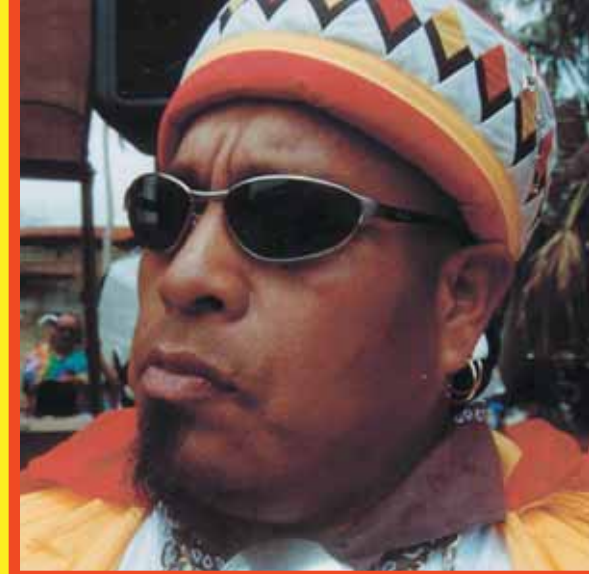
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Seminole Indian Day 2001 At Chokoloskee

SMALLWOOD TRADING POST — The weekend torrential rains that swooped in from the north country to cover Pithlachocco's ancient canoes and liquefy parched Okeechobee Lake never made it to the southwest tip of Florida, March 31. So a few hundred Seminole and Miccosukee Indians, friends, family, tourists, fishermen, crabbers and history buffs remained dry as they gathered for the annual celebration the locals call *Seminole Indian Day*.

Tribal culture was on proud display all day, as Chief Jim Billie talked himself hoarse conducting native clothing, baby, arts and crafts and motorcycle contests. Frank Billie stood to relay his childhood memories of camping on

the beach next to the store owned by pioneer Ted Smallwood. And folksingers Bobby Hicks, Hollywood Dave, C.W. Colt, Long John, Raiford Starke and Paul Buster kept the music flowing until darkness fell and the season's last blue crabs were cooked red.

A small but richly cultural gathering, the Smallwood event comes closest to re-creating the feeling of those halcyon days of the Seminoles' first contacts with non-Indians. Faces of these Seminoles tell a story more than 100 years old, revisited once again on a speck of Ten Thousand Islands mangrove at the very edge of the Florida dream.

— Story and photos by Peter B. Gallagher

