



Betty Mae Jumper and the Women of Achievement. See below.



National pool tournament at Tampa Reservation, page 8.



Smallwood Seminole Indian Day, photo layout, page 16.



# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

"Voice of the Unconquered"

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University officials F. Mark Whitaker, (l) and Gary Meadows, (r) present Alumnus Award to Billy Cypress.

## Cypress Wins Distinguished Alumnus Award

**WINTER PARK** — William 'Billy' Lawrence Cypress, executive director of the Seminole Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum was recently honored with the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Stetson University.

Cypress was born in the Florida Everglades in 1943, lived most of his pre-teens youth in a Seminole village and did not speak English until he was five.

He attended a reservation school in Dania and graduated from McArthur High School, where he was voted "Most Likely to Succeed." Billy entered Stetson University in 1961.

He won a full, four-year scholarship to SU. As an undergraduate, he excelled in athletics as a runner, and also as an ROTC cadet leader. An English major, his

See CYPRESS, page 2



Premium cigars are available by the box, in 7 styles.

## Chief's Cigars Available Online

**ESTELI, Nicaragua** — The hottest new cigar line in "smokeland" can now be purchased online. The famed Chief Jim Billie cigar is now available through the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Internet marketplace at the Tribe's home page: [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com).

The special tobaccos in the Chief Jim Billie line are all grown near this northern Nicaragua town in the famous cigar region of Central America. Manufactured in Esteli, the cigars are imported to the United States by the Seminole Tribe under the direction of Tribal Foreign Affairs Director Calixto Garcia.

"These are excellent cigars and we have them available in seven different styles," said Garcia, who came up with the idea after noticing Seminole Chairman James Billie's interest in smoking fine cigars. "We hope this will be a profitable enterprise for the Tribe."

The cigars will only be available by the box (50 quantity). Styles and prices include: Cabinet reserve (Presidente) \$100, JEB Churchill \$80, Miccosukee Churchill \$80, Corona \$75, Lonsdale \$75, Robusto \$80, and Princess \$70. Prices include shipping and handling.

The label was designed by *Seminole Tribune* graphic artist Melissa Sherman. Chief Jim Billie cigars are also available at Billie Swamp Safari.



**CAN YOU HELP?** Beth Hight purchased this photo (circa 1940) in an antique store in Texas. It was part of a collection from journalist R.R. Doubleday who traveled the country on assignment. Beth and husband Frank recently moved to Florida, and sent us the photo seeking identities and information about this picture. We were able to name -- (l-r) Charlie Billie, (unknown) Josie Billie, (unknown) Corey Osceola and Charlie Tiger. If you have more information about the photo, please call (954) 967-3416.

## What If They Brought A Gator To New York City . . . And Nobody Cared?

By Libby Blake

**NEW YORK CITY** — In a highly touted — and mostly ignored — promotion by Delta Airlines to launch its new Express service between Fort Lauderdale and John F. Kennedy (JFK) Airport here, Billie Swamp Safari and Florida Seminole Tourism supplied the "bait" to draw the public toward the new low-fare, daily, non-stop service: a nine-foot, 375-pound alligator affectionately known as "Big Al."

The promotion, designed to attract national news coverage, originated from a concept with Francine Mason of the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). Mason, along with Stacy Geagan, Delta spokesperson, believed the national media would be lured by having a live *hal-pa-tah-chobee* represent the Fort Lauderdale "connection."

And, hopefully, the Seminole Tribe — particularly Billie Swamp Safari — would get some publicity, too.

The word went out all over a city where giant gators in the sewers is a famous urban legend.

Unfortunately, the only media bothering to attend the JFK-gator event was the *Seminole Tribune*.

Big Al was apparently not good bait.

The planned gator demon-

stration show was a bust, also.

After Big Al's 2½ hour flight and overnight stay in a crate in the cargo holding area, handlers Thomas Storm Jr. and "Gator John"

See GATOR, page 12



**HANDCUFFED:** Billy L. Cypress, J.R. Storm, Gator John and Lee Tiger restrain gator so armed New York policeman can get in the photograph.

## DeHass Won't Let Young Cowboys Grow Up To Be Babies

By Colin Kenny

**HOLLYWOOD** — David DeHass puts three-year-old grandson Nicholas in the bucking chute on top of a 300-pound, two-year-old, horned bovine named "Baby Calf."

The chute gate opens and out comes Baby Calf with little Nick bouncing on top. Ten yards and three seconds later, the boy tumbles off the bucking Baby. Of course, Granddaddy DeHass had been running along side the whole time, one hand on the little tyke to break his fall. Just like the big cowboys, Nicholas dusts himself off and is ready to get it on again.

DeHass' grandson is part of a group of kids, ages three through

16, who show up almost every afternoon (5 p.m.) at the Bill Osceola Arena here, to learn and practice their rodeo skills in a program called the Hollywood Horse Club and Rodeo Team, sponsored by the Seminole Tribe's Department of Recreation.

"He has no fear," DeHass, Horse Club Manager, says of his grandson, who, with the same stocky frame as his Grandpa, could easily pass for age five. "Ol' Nicholas got a third in sheep, Saturday night." (DeHass is referring to his grandson's finish at a Brighton Fun Day rodeo in a category known as "mutton busting,"

See DEHASS, page 7



David DeHass and Grandson Nicholas.

## Honors For Betty Mae

### \*Women Of Achievement

By Vida Volkert

**CORAL GABLES** — Seminole Communications Director Betty Mae Jumper was inducted into the Florida Women of Achievement photographic documentary during a reception held at the Omni Colonnade Hotel, March 28.

Despite a recent illness which kept Betty Mae hospitalized for over a week, she made a triumphant appearance to the applause and admiration of a distinguished audience that gathered to celebrate the exhibit's Ninth Annual Millennium Reception.

"Betty Mae Jumper is a woman of determination and I am very proud to have her here," said Scherley Busch, the program's executive director and the exhibit's photographer, after presenting Betty with a medal in recognition of her achievements.

Betty Mae, dressed in her colorful regalia and displaying a positive attitude, said she was happy to have been able to make it to the reception, and she felt most humbled with the recognition.

"It is an honor to be here," said Betty Mae. "I was very sick, but made it. I enjoy being here tonight," said Betty who was accompanied by her son Moses Jumper Jr., daughter-in-law Laquita Jumper, grandson Chebon Gooden, secretary to the Tribal Chairman Pat Diamond and Patricia Wickman, Director of the Tribe's Anthropology and Genealogy Department.

Betty's photographic portrait shone along with the portraits of 45 other remarkable women in the Florida Women of Achievement exhibit. All of the women have helped shape the legacy of the state of Florida.

See BETTY, page 12

### \*Nursing Conference

By Jeanne Madrid

**TAMPA** — Betty Mae Jumper, the first Tribal member to earn a nursing degree, was honored at the 10th Annual National Indian Nursing Education Conference, March 16-18, before 130 participants from 40 different tribes. USF American History professor and author Patrick Riordan spoke on behalf of Betty, who was unable to attend due to health reasons.

Connie Whidden, Medical Director and member of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, attended the Conference, which was co-sponsored by the University of South Florida College of Nursing Center for Native American Nursing Studies and the Indian Health Service's (IHS) Nursing Division. Connie is on the advisory board for the Center for Native American Nursing Studies.

The participants were nursing students, faculty, researchers, and employees of Indian Health Services who came to focus on health topics pertaining to Native Americans. Dr. Joan Gregory, Project Director and Associate Professor of the Native American Nursing Studies program at USF, was instrumental in developing the conference.

Several of the colleges with nursing and health related professional programs which have scholarship funding from Indian Health Services for American Indians and Alaskan Natives of federally recognized tribes were on display throughout the conference. Rose Jerue a member of the Deg I'tan Athabaskan Tribe of Alaska was present representing IHS.

According to Patricia Lee-McCoy, Director of the Division of Health Profession Support with Indian Health Services, the USF College of Nursing currently has a 5 year grant to recruit and support American Indian and Alaskan Native students with preference given to federally recognized tribes to successfully complete the nursing program in which they choose.

The programs USF offers are all complementary in extension to the other nursing schools where IHS awards scholarships. Anyone interested in more information about the nursing programs funded by IHS can call either Martina Callahan or Sandra Dodge at (301) 443-1840.

# Editorial

## Nixon's Message Lives On

**\*Ben Nighthorse Campbell**

In July 1970, President Richard M. Nixon delivered his now-famous "Special Message to the Congress on Indian Affairs" that revolutionized how our nation deals with Native governments and Native people from Florida to Alaska, from Maine to Hawaii.

With centuries of ill-conceived and misdirected federal policies and practices behind us, I am happy to say that the Nixon Indian policy continues as the bedrock of America's promise to Native Americans.

In his Message to Congress, the President made the case for a more enlightened federal Indian policy. Citing historical injustices as well as the practical failure of all previous federal policies regarding Indian Nations, President Nixon called for the rejection of both the "termination" policy of the 1950s and the "excessive dependence" on the federal government by Indian tribes and people fostered by federal paternalism.

Nixon observed that "the first Americans — the Indians — are the most deprived and most isolated group in our nation. On virtually every scale of measurement — employment, income, education, health — the condition of the Indian people rank at the bottom."

Thirty years later, Indians continue to suffer high rates of unemployment, are mired in poverty, and still rank at or near the bottom of nearly every social and economic indicator in the nation.

Nonetheless, there is cause for hope that the conditions of Native Americans are improving, however slowly.

The twin pillars of the policy change initiated in 1970 are political self determination and economic self reliance. Without doubt, the most enduring legacy of the 1970 Message is the Indian self determination policy best embodied in the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975, amended several times since then.

This Act (S. Res 277 — see below), which has consistently been supported, promoted, and expanded with bipartisan support, authorizes Indian tribes to assume responsibility for and administer programs and services formerly provided by the federal government.

As of 1999, nearly 48 percent of all Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and 50 percent of all Indian Health Service (IHS) programs and services have been assumed by tribes under the Indian Self Determination Act.

With this transfer of resources and decision making authority, tribal governments have succeeded in improving the quality of services to their citizens, have developed more sophisticated tribal governing structures and practices, have improved their ability to govern, and have strengthened their economies.

Self determination contracting and compacting have improved the efficiency of federal programs and services and at the same time have devolved control over these resources from Washington, D.C., to the local, tribal governments which are much more in tune with the needs of their own people.

As steps are taken to provide tribes the tools they need to develop vigorous economies and generate tribal revenues, our policy in Congress and across the federal government should be to encourage and assist tribes to expand self determination and self governance into other agencies and programs, and in the process help Native people to achieve real and measurable success in improving their standard of living.

The challenge of the Nixon Message was not only to the federal government but to the tribes themselves: that by building strong tribal governments and more robust economies, real independence and true self determination can be achieved. Our experience has shown that any cooperative efforts between the United States and the tribes must include a solemn assurance that the special relationship will endure and will not be terminated by the fits and starts of periodic economic success enjoyed by some Indian tribes.

President Nixon wisely realized that the mere threat of termination results in a tendency toward an unhealthy dependence on the federal government which has plagued Native people for decades. As President Nixon himself knew, Native people are not hapless bystanders in this process. His Message recognized that the story of the Indian in America is one of "endurance, survival, of adaptation and creativity in the face of overwhelming obstacles."

This persistence and tenacity by Native people have been the foundation in forging a more enlightened Indian policy and with the assistance of the United States will, I am confident, result in true self determination for Native people in the United States.

— **Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne) is a United States Senator from Colorado.**

## Senate Resolution 277

Whereas, the United States of America and the sovereign Indian Tribes contained within its boundaries have had a long and mutually beneficial relationship since the beginning of the Republic;

Whereas the United States has recognized this special legal and political relationship and its trust responsibility to the Indian Tribes as reflected in the Federal Constitution, treaties, numerous court decisions, federal statutes, executive orders, and course of dealing;

Whereas Federal policy toward the Indian Tribes has vacillated through history and often failed to uphold the government-to-government relationship that has endured for more than 200 years;

Whereas these Federal policies included the wholesale removal of Indian tribes and their members from their aboriginal homelands, attempts to assimilate Indian people into the general culture, as well as the termination of the legal and political relationship between the United States and the Indian Tribes;

Whereas President Richard M. Nixon, in his "Special Message to Congress on Indian Affairs" on July 8, 1970, recognized that the Indian Tribes constitute a distinct and valuable segment of the American federalist system, whose members have made significant contributions to the United States and to American culture;

Whereas President Nixon determined that Indian Tribes, as local governments, are best able to discern the needs of their

people and are best situated to determine the direction of their political and economic futures;

Whereas in his "Special Message" President Nixon recognized that the policies of legal and political termination on the one hand, and paternalism and excessive dependence on the other, devastated the political, economic, and social aspects of life in Indian America, and had to be radically altered;

Whereas in his "Special Message" President Nixon set forth the foundation for a new, more enlightened Federal Indian policy grounded in economic self reliance and political self determination;

Whereas this Indian self determination policy has endured as the most successful policy of the United States in dealing with the Indian Tribes because it rejects the failed policies of termination and paternalism and declared that "the integrity and right to continued existence of all Indian Tribal and Alaska native governments, recognizing that cultural pluralism is a source of national strength."

Now Therefore be it Resolved, That the Senate of the United States recognizes the unique role of the Indian Tribes and their members in the United States, and commemorates the vision and leadership of President Nixon, and every succeeding President, in fostering the policy of Indian Self-Determination.

— **Submitted to the United States Senate, March 23, 2000, by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz) and Sen. Tim Johnson (D-SD).**

## e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

mimmp@castlegate.net

### Chief Billie:

I am very interested in continuing my practice of participating in sweat lodges and firewalks. I have been unable to link up with anyone for those locally and my friend would like to do his first firewalk soon.

Will you be hosting one sometime soon? If not, could you direct me to where there will be one in the Tri-county area? Thank you for your assistance.

**Catherine Migliano**  
majikcecil@aol.com

**Anyone out there have any sweat lodge or firewalk information for Catherine?**

### Chief Billie:

This (www.seminoletribe.com) is such a cool page, I just wish I could copy and get a picture of the girls at the top of the page and not just the boys.

**Catherine Jones**  
Eden, NY  
Cath607@aol.com

**Our webmaster has already e-mailed you the requested photo.**

### Chief Billie:

Thanks for this beautifully done and informative site. I was born and raised in Florida with Cherokee ancestry.

Nice to connect with a piece of my history about which I know little.

**Ouida Crozier**  
Minneapolis, MN  
pocketbgl@aol.com

### Hello Chief Billie:

I just wanted to say how much your website and the Seminole Tribe's website have helped me out. I am constructing a 20-page, 40-minute presentation on the Seminoles for my Native American Cultural Anthropology Cluster.

The information provided on these sites has been both interesting and informative. I hope to continue learning about the Seminoles and other Native American tribes long after my project is finished. Thank you again and if you have any other information, I would love to hear from you. Have a great day.

**Lisa Raidel**  
New Wilmington, PA  
raidellm@westminster.edu

### Chief Billie:

I would like to find out how I can join the Tribe since I am 1/4 Seminole. I'd like information on how the Tribe works things such as language, customs, and clothes they wear and what homes they live in.

**Crystal Hollenback**  
Merritt Island, FL

**For information on "joining" the Seminole Tribe, please consult**  
<http://www.seminoletribe.com/history/faq.s.shtml#G2>.

### Chief Billie:

This summer we go on vacation to Florida and we hope to visit some Seminole Indian Reservations to learn something about the Indian way of life and culture. So I found some information on your website. Friendly greetings.

**Geert and Carina**  
Belgium Europe  
[www.ping.be/geert-carina](http://www.ping.be/geert-carina)

**Lucky Evanicki of Billie Swamp Safari replies:**

**Thank you for the kind message! We look forward to your visit to the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation - and Billie Swamp Safari and the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum on this reservation. They are both outlined on the Seminole Tribe's website and I hope you have had a chance to review them. Have a safe journey and we'll leave a fire burning for you in the cook chickee!**

### Chief Billie:

I had this fellow tell me that he

See Email, page 3



Waag-nug-nosh-et Hollywood ken yah lahgin. (Bull going home to Hollywood).

## Remembering Our Living Legends

How many of you have ever met Susie Jim Billie? How about Buffalo Jim, Little Fewell or Charlie Cypress?

For those of you who answer no, I can honestly say that's a shame. I feel honored that I have met and spoken to these and other of our Seminole legends.

Although it may be too late for some of the younger generation, all is not lost. We still have elders in our midst who hold the key to our future assurance and

preservation of our valuable culture, language, medicine and legends we hold so dear. They are a treasure trove of information of our past — which will inevitably affect our future generations.

Although much is being done to preserve our language and culture, a lot has been lost due to simple lack of caring by the younger generations. Maybe they think these elders will live forever, or what they have to say is not important. At a young age you never grasp the thought of your loved ones leaving until they're gone.

I know that never entered my mind till it came to be. And then I was very grateful to have had such wise and loving people caring for me. I was glad to help record the history they had to tell.

With all the newest innovations, games and technology out there for the young people these days, the last thing on their minds is visiting with our elderly. Some of these kids even seem to fear them. They don't speak their own language and can't communicate. They have better things to do and feel that those things are more important.

Our elder tribal members would like nothing more than a visit from the children or teens — even if they only stopped by for a short time. They understand more than one would think, and have much to share. Many are actually lonely and would enjoy the company.

I often wish that I had recorded conversations with some of our elders who have passed on. Even though I was given valuable lessons and information, I can only store it in my mind, and as time goes on, will I remember everything I was taught, or will some of their words eventually fade from my mind? I have found it essential to teach my children all I can of what I have received from our elders.

Betty Mae Jumper is one of our elders who has made it her mission to preserve the culture and old Seminole legends through her videos such as *Corn Lady* and other documentaries. She is

highly respected in the anglo world and even bestowed with an honorary "doctorate" degree by Florida State University.

She is one of our most valuable assets and is responsible for much of the growth of the Seminole Tribe. Yet, there are many people who don't ever take the time to stop by to visit with her. She has so much to share with our younger generation and is still available to us to pass on the past history of our people. There are others also, but they too, are passed by for a day at the movies or a concert.

If not for our Council and Board representatives, our elderly would be forgotten by most of our

young people and left to sit at home lonely and neglected. Our representatives have provided trips, outings and exciting vacations for our elderly and have encouraged the younger members to take advantage of the information these golden pioneers are so eager to share with us.

Much concern is voiced about child abuse and neglect, yet not much is ever said about the neglect of our elderly. They have been abused and exploited as much — if not more so — than even the children. Rather than receiving the respect and honor they deserve, they are often taken advantage of.

We need to think about a time when these elders were young and vibrant as we are; they lived full lives, married, had children, cared for them and their parents and taught their young all they needed to know to survive in a world of prejudice, hate, and extreme poverty.

They traveled in their dugouts from camp to camp and visited the medicine man when they were sick. We can't even find the time to stop and visit with them in spite of financial abilities, new vehicles, advanced telephone technologies and all of the modern day miracles available to us.

We need to remember that some day we too will grow old. Do we want to receive the kind of treatment from our own grandchildren that today's young people give our elders? I think not.

We need to teach our children the importance of respecting our elderly and taking advantage of the gift of knowledge that is right around the corner and available to us all. If not, what kind of history will be there to pass on to future generations?

— **Virginia Mitchell is Editor of the Seminole Tribune.**

## Cypress

Continued from page 1

leadership abilities were recognized as a Stetson student when he was tapped for membership in the Omicron Delta Kappa leadership fraternity and the Scabbard and Blade ROTC leadership society. Billy also became the first Florida Seminole Indian in history to graduate from college and to receive a commission as a U.S. Army Officer.

Following his undergraduate degree, Billy served two years of active duty in the U.S. Army and earned a master's degree at Arizona State University. He then became an education specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

During his 18-year career with the BIA, he spent five years in Washington, D.C., as an education spe-

cialist with the Bureau.

Billy and his family are now back in their beloved Florida, where Billy is currently serving as the chief administrator for the Seminole Tribal Museum Authority. The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is a shining example of William L. Cypress' ability to lead and to serve, and he is a great source of pride for the Seminole people and for Stetson University.

## Correction

In the March 3 issue Mary T. Bowers was incorrectly named as third place finisher in the Women's Age 50 — 59 Senior Bowling Tournament.

Mabel Osceola finished third with a score of 549. Congratulations to Mabel.



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Reflections By Patsy West

# Controversial “Chief”

*The Seminole Tribune receives many questions via e-mail. Some are answered directly via e-mail reply. Some are answered on our editorial pages. Others are sent to experts for replies. When we sent this e-mail to author Patsy West, she was inspired to provide the answer in her column:*

**Editor:**  
Many years ago my grandfather had contact with an individual who identified himself as Tony Tommie. This person told my grandfather he was a Seminole chief who lived in the Miami area.

I think this contact took place in the 30s or 40s and the Chief was approximately 21 at the time. Was this person a real chief, is he still alive and can you send me any other biographical information you might have?

**Don Budnik**  
**Brooklyn, NY**  
**Dbud942197@aol.com**

Tony M. B. Tommie (Panther Clan), *Hath-wa-ha-chee*, was a son of Annie Jumper Tommie and Doctor Tommie. He was born on Big City Island in the Pine Island complex of islands in the Everglades west of New River in 1895.

Big City Island was one of the three islands in the Pine Island complex, the site of old Seminole settlements prior to the Second Seminole War. In the late 19th century the Pine Island Complex had become a refuge for displaced Seminoles.



Young Tony Tommie ignored elders and attended school.

By 1900 it had become so overpopulated, that it had to be abandoned. In 1906, the islands became landlocked by the North and South New River Drainage Canals, which permanently cut off the Seminoles’ access to the site by canoe.

Tony Tommie grew up in his grandmother, Mammy Jumper’s camps on New River and then on the North Fork of New River. He interacted in local activities and was well known to early townspeople.

With other young men in his mother’s camp, he learned to play baseball, in fact, a diamond was laid out near the camp on the North Fork of New River at Broward Boulevard. While a game between the Seminoles and Ransom School for Boys in Coconut Grove appears to have been called off, it is possible that the Seminoles played against local teams.

Unlike the majority of Seminoles, Tony wanted to attend school. Book education was still forbidden by the elders, most of whom lived in the Big

Cypress. It was these individuals who were the powerful leaders, powerful politically and powerful in medicine.

During this time the Seminoles had no “chiefs,” but if they had, they would have come out of this group of men. Seminole Agent, Lucien A. Spencer said he talked with these elders and secured permission for Tony to attend school.

From all accounts, it does not seem that Spencer had the clout to make an impression on the Seminole elders who were very reticent and strongly opinionated (also Spencer was known to stretch the truth for his own edification). It seems highly unlikely that the elders would have agreed to Tommie’s book education as they continued to frown on such education until decades later.

However, in 1914 and at the age of 19, a former schoolteacher and longtime friend of the Seminoles, Mrs. Frank Stranahan, aided Tony in his educational endeavors. Tony Tommie was enrolled and attended Fort Lauderdale Common School in 1914-16.

He boarded with a family near the school, then later rode his bicycle to and from his Mother’s camp to school. He taught other children in the camp the alphabet and a little reading and arithmetic. The next school year, he persuaded two boys and two girls from his Mother’s camp to attend school with him.

From a photo it appears that the young men and women wore regular school clothes rather than their Tribal attire, but the girls continued to wear their beads. Agent Spencer applauded Tony Tommie for his work and noted that, “the Fort Lauderdale band made Tony Tommie its headman after his first year in school.”

Also, about this time, it did appear that the young Tony Tommie became the spokesman and representative for the Seminoles living in the Fort Lauderdale area.

1919 saw Tony Tommie heading up the Seminole extras in a major feature film shot on location at Fort Lauderdale beach. The Seminoles in their canoes filled in as South Sea islanders in D. W. Griffith’s, *The Idol Dancer*.

In the early 1920s, Tony Tommie became economically involved in tourism. Because he had learned to read, write, and cipher, he figured prominently as Head Man at Musa Isle Seminole Village in Miami.

As he was the spokesman for the village and in charge of the Seminole families there, the press labeled him “Chief.” He was immortalized in press photos. In June 1926, he was featured in one of the first and most highly attended events that Musa Isle had ever held — an “Indian Wedding.” This wedding was an important event, because tourists were so anxious to attend it that they stayed in Miami weeks longer than the official tourist season.

In 1926 Tony Tommie’s mother and her family moved to the newly opened Dania Reservation. The town of Fort Lauderdale had expanded out to where Annie Tommie’s camp had been located. It appears from some recently uncovered information that the town fathers felt that the Seminole camp was not sanitary and they wanted the Seminoles moved out of the city.

Mrs. Ivy Stranahan, wife of the former trading post operator and a longtime friend of Annie and her family, persuaded Annie to relocate her camp to the Dania Reservation. This was ironic, as Annie and her family were actually coming home to their old camp, which had been abandoned some 25 years earlier by her own mother. They had left the island by canoe, but now, after drainage, they would arrive in Mrs. Stranahan’s car.

In November 1926 some Miami attorneys took Tony Tommie to Washington, D.C. Upon his



Tony Tommie as “Head Man” and Seminole children at the Musa Isle Seminole Village in Miami. Photo: Circa 1924.

arrival back in Miami, a press conference was called in order to announce that Tommie had sent a letter to President Calvin Coolidge. The letter said, in part, “the Indians have decided to ask for citizenship in the United States and to swear their allegiance to America.”

Tommie noted that he had made this statement without conferring with the Seminole council, but he said that he planned to speak with them soon. It appears that it was the attorneys who had persuaded him to act so rashly on his own.

Perhaps being constantly hailed as a chief and being one of the most book educated members of his Tribe made him feel omnipotent and responsible beyond his traditional means for the welfare of the Florida Seminoles. However, this act would be the beginning of Tony Tommie’s downfall.

Two months later, in February 1927, there was a definite connection between these events – the assuming of leadership and a well-publicized ceremony on the newly drained Everglades near Hialeah.

“Forward to the Soil” was a publicity stunt created by the Miami Chamber of Commerce to sell real estate. Tony Tommie was one of the main participants. He would symbolically “give away” the Seminoles’ muck land to his “white brothers” during the ceremony.

His Mother and her family were the unwitting participants in the show in which a “Seminole” flag in medicine colors was brought down and the Stars and Stripes was raised. This event caused the first formal statement to be issued from the true Seminole leadership, the traditional Council of Elders. In a statement issued through their friend, W. Stanley Hanson of Fort Myers, the Council condemned Tony Tommie as a “Fakir and Traitor.”

Soon, contrary to his own enthusiasm for learning, Tony Tommie disrupted the Dania Reservation’s educational program, telling parents that it was a bad thing to educate their children. The same Agent Spencer who had praised Tommie’s educational efforts in 1915 then angrily labeled him “a self-styled chief.”

Tony Tommie was diagnosed with tuberculosis soon after and was sent by the government to an Indian sanatorium in Oklahoma. He was back in Florida when his bride died in February 1928 at Musa

Isle following a protracted illness from tuberculosis.

Some members of Tony Tommie’s family question that Tony Tommie and Edna Johns were actually married, that the sell out event in 1926 might have been only an act for the tourists, but this couple were the only Seminoles to contract TB at that time. Tony Tommie again left for Oklahoma.

It looked like he was cured in 1930. The government took him on a tour of other Indian reservations on his way home to Florida. When he arrived back in Miami he spoke out in support of a government survey and against the authority of his replacement at Musa Isle.

As a result and because of his former indiscretions he was most unwelcome in the Seminole community. He felt that the medicine men were “fixing medicine” on him and that he wouldn’t live. Tony



Tony reads letter to mother, Annie, at her Fort Lauderdale camp.

Tommie went home to his Mother’s camp on the Dania Reservation where he succumbed to tuberculosis in April 1931.  
— **Reflections Number 175.**

## Time Running Out On Museum Exhibits At Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki

**BIG CYPRESS** — Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum has been open for two and a half years. Items on exhibition at the museum from the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of the American Indian are on temporary loan, which will expire soon.

In early May conservators will retrieve them. They will bring other items from the National Museum of the American Indian to put in their place for another two years.

This rotation policy assures that the items on loan will not be stressed by the Museum environment, light, humidity, or being exhibited on a mannequin, even though extreme precautions are taken to minimize any harm to these rare items.

If you haven’t been to the Museum to see these items, do so before they are gone. The artifacts which will be leaving soon for Washington are:

- \*A blouse with silver brooches which was collected in 1908 at Fort Lauderdale from Annie Jumper Tommie (Panther Clan).
- \*A long shirt which was purchased from John Jumper (Panther Clan) at his camp near Allapata Flats.
- \*A man’s big shirt, a lady’s skirt and a breechcloth will also be replaced.
- \*A beaded belt owned by Ben Frank (Tommie) (Panther Clan) a member of Robert Osceola’s camp on the North Fork of New River in Fort Lauderdale.
- \*Two beaded fobs obtained from Lucy Gopher (Bird Clan) at Hungryland.

\*A rare pair of yarn and bead fingerwoven garters owned by Jim Gopher (Snake Clan) and obtained at his camp at Parker’s Branch.

Everyone is encouraged to stop by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum in Big Cypress to see these items before they are returned to Washington and are put back into storage for safekeeping. . .

Guests will also see some changes to the Museum’s Temporary Gallery. Last year an exhibition of Seminole War period artifacts were installed in conjunction with the Museum’s inaugural Kissimmee Slough Shootout, now an annual event in its second year.

These items too will be given “a rest” and will be put back into storage. An exhibit on patchwork clothing will be put in their place in June.

The Seminole War period artifacts include:

- \*3 Buckskin coats from the Eastern Woodlands. One has a rare matching pair of buckskin leggings.
- \*Army Uniform Coats.
- \*Three peace medals.
- \*Period firearms and edged weapons.

If you haven’t seen these rare items from the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian or the Seminole War items from Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki’s permanent collection, come to the Museum before May 1!

For information, call (941) 902-1113.

## e-mail

Continued from page 2

was Seminole. I don’t know if he truly is. He looks like a Native American and he goes by the name of Jarrell “Winter Hawk.” My mother picked him up beside the road; he was homeless at the time. She gave him shelter and we became friends.

He is gone now and the last I heard of him he was in Denver locked up in prison for having a concealed weapon. This guy was in the Marine Corp and has a tattoo on his arm. Just wondering if you would happen to know him. Thanks.

**Timothy Kamalu**  
**Timandheather@peoplepc.com**

**Seminole Tribune:**

I am looking for an old friend that I went to Georgetown College with in Kentucky back in 1957-61. His name is Mr. Joe Dan Osceola and he would be around 60 years old. My last contact with him was when he lived in Hollywood Florida in the late ‘60s. We have lost contact with each other over the years but now with this new computer technology I was looking at some of your old issues of the paper and found several mentions of Joe Dan Osceola. I was wondering if this could be my old friend from years ago. Would it be possible, if this is the same Joe Dan Osceola, to let me know how I can contact him or could you pass along my address so he can get in touch

**Jim Cantrall**  
**Glendale, KY.**  
**Granandpops@aol.com**

*Joe Dan, who lives on the Hollywood Reservation, is the Seminole Tribal Ambassador. We’ll give him your address.*



**Chief Billie:**

My name is Ines Chaves and I was tapped into Iron Arrow, an honor society at the University of Miami. Therefore, I was wondering if it was possible for you to tell me what my jacket stands for. A picture of the jacket is attached. Thank you for your help.

**Ines Chaves**  
**Miami**  
**Ichaves@yahoo.com**

*Virginia Mitchell, Editor of the Seminole Tribune replies:*

*Your jacket represents the integrity and pride of an unconquered tribe who produced exceptional works of art.*

**Seminole Tribune:**

I was at the big New Years event played by Phish and I just wanted to thank you, as a whole culture and family. It is very beautiful down there and the people were very friendly. I would also like to know if there was much damage done to the concert site and its surrounding area? (I hope not, I

know that the vast majority of Phish fans are environmentally aware and friendly, but there are always exceptions). I hope everything was cleaned up. Thank you for allowing the band and us, their most devoted fans, to hold such an excellent concert at your beautiful and respected home. Much love and affection,

**Claudio Rietti**  
**crietti@vt.edu**

**Hello Chief Jim Billie:**

I am Chief Ta Tonka of South Carolina. I regret hearing the news the alligator took a bite off of your hand. My name is actually Joe Graham. I attended NYE 2000 Big Cypress and saw you. Please get some rest and try to learn to live with your new disability.

**Joe Graham**  
**CrazularJNG@yahoo.com**

**Chief Billie:**

One of my fellow Iron Arrow tap-ees gave me your e-mail address for assistance with a pattern on my patchwork shirt. I have attached a JPG of the pattern in question, and would be most grateful for any interpretation you may have to offer. Thank you!

**Jonathan Acey Albert**  
**University of Miami School of Medicine**  
**acey@gate.net**

*Virginia Mitchell Editor of the Seminole Tribune Replies:*

*All of the old style patchworks were given names. This particular piece is more modern and was not given a name.*





Community News



Wendy Johns and Michele Thomas led "Team Seminole Tribe" on the March of Dimes Walk America.

# Team Seminole Wins For March Of Dimes

**OKEECHOBEE** — In December, Team Seminole Tribe led by Wendy Johns and Michele Thomas joined thousands of others in the March of Dimes Walk America bringing in \$10,636.31.

The idea to participate was introduced by Wendy Johns, Health Educator for Brighton who has worked with March of Dimes for three consecutive years. For the first year of involvement Team Seminole Tribe exceeded all expectations, winning in virtually all categories.

The team "walked" away with: "Most Money Raised," by holding various fund raisers resulting with a Super Bowl Community Garage sale, concession stand at the Youth Livestock Sale, Valentine flower sale, OCRA basketball concession as well as soliciting donations from different Tribal officials and business sponsors.

Team Seminole Tribe also won in the category of "Cleverest Fund Raiser." A Seminole Tribe pin doll, designed by Abby Osceola James with the March of Dimes ribbon, was sold in various places around the community. The team also won the "Chairman's Club Award" for raising over \$1,000 as well as the "Top New Team," and "Best T-shirt design."

Michele Thomas, assistant to the Chairman, mentioned that the reasons Brighton residents decided to participate this year was to do public relations

in the community and to honor Willie Johns, who is a polio survivor.

In 1953, Willie was struck with childhood virus polio. Even though a vaccine had been developed, many fell victim to the deadly disease. His story is one of survival.

"I was just plain lucky, many were not," says Willie who spent three years in Umatella, Fla. where he had surgery to remove all the muscle of his left leg. After surgery he underwent rehabilitation where he was retrained and taught the basic function of walking again.

"I wore a brace on my leg until I was seven years old," says Johns. "The reason I feel lucky is because I lived in a community where my family was outdoor oriented and no pity was placed on me. As a result, I was forced to participate in childhood games, which eventually strengthened my leg. This later allowed me to play high school football which was unheard of."

Willie played in high school football for five years and was voted "All Conference" and chosen by the coaches of the conference as "All State." Willie graduated from high school and started a rodeo career. He participated in all major events and presently participates in the team-roping event.

"I did not allow this disease to discourage me, I continued to set my goals and still do today."

# Meet Writer Benny Secody

The *Seminole Tribune* welcomes Benny Secody as the newest member of our freelance team. Benny has been submitting articles for us now for almost a month, and states he really likes freelance work for the opportunity to meet new people and to be able to occasionally use his journalism skills.

Benny, a Navajo from Arizona, attended Dine' College in Tsale, Ariz., where he took a variety of journalism and photography courses. Currently he is attending Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, where he is pursuing his Masters degree in Substance Abuse.

Last year he passed the Florida Board of Addiction Professionals' stringent criteria to finally be awarded his state certification as an alcohol/addiction professional (CAAPII).

Secody, who is currently employed at the Ruth Cooper Center for Behavioral Health, works full time as a Behavioral Health clinician and enjoys his work with those individuals recovering from substance abuse.

"I can relate to their sickness and their pain," he says. "I've been there myself. Most of my life I was an alcoholic. My own family had given me up as a hopeless cause, and even after several near-death experiences, I was still going strong on the booze.

"I was finally able to identify with my higher power, and have turned my life over to Him. I can honestly say that I have accomplished more in the past 11 years than I have throughout my entire life.

"How many 50-year old guys do you know who had just started to make a commitment to get a degree? I wish there were more in my classes so I did not feel like an old man among all these young people.

"To me, writing is a way of expressing that most of our people were denied in the early days. My father, a traditional medicine man, had forbidden my siblings and me to attend school and did not want us to learn the white man's ways.

"If it were not for my mother intervening on our behalf, it may have been a long time before we were allowed to go to school. She used to tell him that if we learned to read and write, then we



Arizona Navajo writer Benny Secody.

would know what the white man was doing. We had never learned English, and in Boarding School we were severely punished for speaking Navajo.

Amazingly, I picked up my new language rather quickly, and found it intriguing to be able to converse with "the white man" in his language — and rather proficiently at that."

Among the many hats he wears, Benny is an accomplished musician (guitar player) and singer/songwriter, who has appeared on many television shows and radio stations throughout the Southwest. He is currently preparing to record a CD of six of his most recent songs. He states he likes to use his music when working with the young people, and travels around to the various schools, presenting workshops on prevention, peer pressure and the dangers of substance abuse — using his own life experiences as examples.

He missed the privilege of playing his music at our own Tribal Fair in 1989, where he was honored to open for Chairman James E. Billie.

Prior to moving back to Arizona in May of 1989, Secody worked as a Journeyman Ironworker and roomed with other Navajos who were renting here on the Hollywood Reservation.

"I enjoyed the work, but my life was out of control," he says. "I spent my days in a haze of alcohol abuse. I knew if I didn't get away from that kind of work — at least for awhile — I would not have my life for long. After all, I had already used up most of my nine lives."

After moving to the mountains of Arizona, Secody found solace in farming and introduced the Navajo people to "drip irrigation" — a method taught to him by a professor of agriculture from Israel. Keeping a journal was therapeutic — recounting some of his experiences which he would someday like to publish — "even though some of them are so unbelievable, I don't know if I will ever find someone to publish them" he laughs.

Secody, who has lived in Cape Coral for the past two years says he is looking forward to meeting other Native American people through having the opportunity to freelance for our publication, so if you see him packing his trusty camera and note pad, stop and say hello.

# Second Dale Carnegie Graduation

**HOLLYWOOD** — On March 29, 2000 the second class of Dale Carnegie graduates gave their final speeches in front of friends and family.

The 16 graduates were thrilled to have accomplished this wonderful class and spoke eloquently about what the class did for them and how it has given them skills that will assist them in their work and home environment.

There will be more classes in June. "We will be having preview meetings in Hollywood on April 17th" said Maureen Vass, Public and Governmental Relations Coordinator.

"This meeting will give the employee and Tribal member a better idea as to what Dale Carnegie is all about. We will also be having preview classes on the other reservations but that will be in June.

"The commitment that these graduates made is one that should be heralded by everyone. We are all busy and yet there were many graduates who came in from Brighton, Big Cypress and Immokalee every week." Anyone wishing more information on the classes may call Maureen or Jennifer at 954-966-6300, ext. 1240 or 1247.



INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE: Free tee shirt to the first person who can identify all the Dale Carnegie graduates in this photo.

# Tribal Members Walk To Combat Breast Cancer

**MOORE HAVEN** — Members of the Brighton Community participated in a 5K Run/Walk on March 4 in Moore Haven to increase awareness of Breast Cancer and to raise funding for research.

The motivation behind the walk was to honor the memory of Merrilee Longfellow Malcolm. Merrilee died at the age of 34 after a 20-month battle with breast cancer. She left behind a great many that loved her, including her 4-year-old son, Jake.

Breast cancer is the leading type of non-coetaneous cancer found in women in the United States, with 176,300 new cases projected to occur this year.

The major risk factor for breast cancer is aging. Women with a history of one breast cancer are at increased risk for a second primary breast cancer. Additional risk factors include a family history of breast cancer in a mother or sister, proliferate benign breast disease — particularly atypical hyperplasia, radiologically dense breast or calcifications — early period onset, and late age at first birth.

In the United States alone, it was estimated that 43,300 women would die of breast cancer in 1999. Because of increased cigarette smoking patterns over the last several decades, breast cancer has been surpassed by lung cancer as the leading cause of cancer



Brighton Tribal members were all winners in 5K Race.

death in women since 1987.

Each member of Team Seminole Tribe placed in his or her age division. Some of those who participated are Wendy Johns, Connie Whidden, Catherine TerBurgh, Dale Johnson and Loretta Peterson, Mable Haight, Jenny Johns, Patty Waldron, Michele Thomas and Heather Peterson.

# Chainsaws For Charity Coming To Hollywood

**By Dan McDonald**

**HOLLYWOOD** — Some of the world's best chainsaw artists will converge at the Seminole Okalee Indian Village on the Hollywood Reservation April 22-23, in an exhibition of woodcarving to raise money for charity.

Called "Saws in the Swamp," the artists will create individual pieces of art, which will be auctioned off. All proceeds will be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation and the Seminole 4H club. The artists will also jointly produce a single sculpture, which will be presented to the Seminole Tribe. The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

The event is being organized by Joe Dan Osceola, the Tribe's Ambassador, and Daniel 'Red' Whiteman, a Broward County wood carver who has traveled the world learning his craft.

"I got into carving by accident," Red Whiteman laughs. "A woman literally ran into a tree and left a stump in our yard. My wife said, 'why don't you try carving something?'"

"That was nine years ago and I haven't stopped. I go to Alaska and study every year. I love the work, and this exhibit is bringing some of the world's

best to help raise money for a good cause."

The artists who have confirmed include Rick and Judy Pratt of New York, Rick and Randy Boni of Pennsylvania, Luke Andrews of Canada, Brian and Minnie Sprague of New York, Greg Napolitan of New Jersey, Dennis Richardson and Wayne Demoranville of Pennsylvania, 'Buzz Saw Bob' Haleran of Florida and five time world champion carver Dennis Beech.

"We hope to have more commitments before the show," Red says. "This is the first of what we hope becomes an annual event. I think people will be amazed at what they see.

"This is like attending an art show, but it's the only art show where the artists are actually working. You can see them carving. It will be glorious, and everyone will be amazed at the quality of work they produce.

"We hope everyone comes out and bids on the carvings. They'll be great works of art and it will be for a good cause."

The event is sponsored by International Tools of Davie and Stihl chain saws. For more information contact Red Whiteman at (954) 474-3217.



Yeete anaashpeke anaashhoopeka  
ayakaachkoowa.  
Ponhohposhkoochaatot  
shellamashaahomehonte.  
Hopetake rohonupse seyanicahunnat  
arahkvn ahumkotku.  
Nakhotce cemalakena sofacediceckare.  
Generations Are Counting On This.  
Don't Leave It Blank.  
Todas las generaciones estan  
contando con esto. No deje su formulario  
del censo en blanco.







# Billy Cypress Tours Berlin Museum

By Libby Blake and Ernie Tiger

**BERLIN, Germany** — While manning the Florida Seminole Tourism booth at the recent International Tourism Berlin (ITB) 2000 exhibit in Berlin, Billy L. Cypress was approached by local travel agent Walther Reichwein.

Delighted to see a "real" Seminole Indian, Reichwein told Cypress, the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Executive Director, about the Museum Für Völkerkunde (museum for people studies) and their display of Indian artifacts including a shirt purportedly worn by Osceola. He invited Cypress, along with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Development and Promotions Coordinator Tom Gallaher, to visit the museum and meet the curator, Dr. Peter Bolz.

The museum's North American Indian collection is comprised of nearly 30,000 objects and 220 large and small individual collections. The comprehensiveness and quality of the exhibit was made possible by the return in 1991 and '92 of objects confiscated by the Soviet Army as war booty after World War II.

The two shirts attributed to Osceola came from the 1846 collection of French North American Kähler. Kähler traveled all over North America gathering artifacts from Indians and settlers during the 19th century. Cataloged as Osceola's "hunter coats," they were listed by Kähler with the adden-

dum "together with his portrait." Unfortunately, the portrait no longer exists. Kähler probably came to the conclusion that the shirts belonged to Osceola based on the similarity of the shirts to the one worn in the lost portrait. Regardless of whom the shirts belonged to, there is no doubt these printed calico shirts are of Seminole origin and of great historical value.

The objects selected for presentation in the museum provide only a small insight into the rich treasures of the entire inventory. Besides the artifacts on display, Cypress and Gallaher also viewed the North American Indians catalog, which lists the entire collection along with notations on origin and acquisition of the pieces.

"Both the exhibit and the catalog begin with a prologue that looks critically at the cliché images that still influences the public conception of North American Indians. The main body of the exhibition and catalog shows that the best way to understand the simple-mindedness of Indian clichés is to view the great variety of Indian lifestyles and their material products," stated Dr. Bolz in the catalog foreword.

After meeting with Bolz and viewing the extensive North American collection, Cypress presented the curator with a modern Seminole patchwork vest.

# Seminole Tourism Seeks German Market

By Libby Blake

**BERLIN** — Seminole Tourism traveled to Germany March 11 for the world's largest trade show — International Tourism Berlin (ITB). Seminole Tourism, in partnership with FLA USA Visit Florida, was one of a record 8,808 exhibitors at the annual event which attracted over 60,000 consumers and a similar number of travel professionals last year. Organizers of this year's event projected a 20 percent increase in attendance.

Director Lee Tiger led the Seminole Tourism delegation. Executive Director Billy L. Cypress and Development and Promotions Coordinator Tom Gallaher represented Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. Lucy Evanicki, Marketing Director for the Safari, represented Billie Swamp Safari and Eco-Tours.

"We have discovered that there's a tremendous interest in the German market for American Indian culture," said Lee Tiger. "Through TV programs, the media, and the relationship we've developed with the CVB (Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau), more and more people are learning that there's Indians in Florida.

"For years, the tour operators have been selling Tamiami Everglades Park Safari. The Seminole Tribe, with the museum and the Indian tour guides offering special sites and insights of Indian culture along with the Safari Eco-tours, and can offer an American Indian Heritage attraction no one else has."

When asked how the European market has grown over his ten years as Director of Leisure Sales and Marketing for the CVB, Lee Levering replied, "We know that this market is a good market and we have to be consistent with our efforts to promote tourism. While it may not be as much as we'd like, we're looking at a five to six percent increase each year."

ITB is held on the Berlin Exhibition Grounds and in the ITC Berlin. It is spread out among 26 buildings with over 1.6 million square feet of exhibition space. The exhibitors at ITB 2000 represented 177 countries and territories.

Exhibitors consist of every branch of tourism from individual companies and attractions to national organizations. Some spare no expense in presenting their product in an effort to "sell" themselves as the best tourist designation. In every building there are elaborate displays, virtual tours, audio, video, and print materials, and indigenous artists, musicians, dancers, and admission.

Admission to the five-day show is reserved on



Billy L. Cypress (center) and Tom Gallaher (right) inspect Museum garments thought to once belong to Osceola.

two days for trade professionals only. This allows the exhibitors to focus on new commercial contracts, to familiarize themselves with the market, cultivate existing business links, study the competition, and acquaint themselves with changes in the market.

"What I've noticed more so this year is a broader base of individuals and companies that have come to meet with Florida Seminole Tourism to do business," said Lucy Evanicki. "We've connected with companies from Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, and even a tour operator from France who wants to put on a large display and exhibit in Paris with the Tribe next year."

"We have some tour operators who've been doing business with us strictly via e-mail and at this show we've been able to put a face with the name and build on those relationships for future business. There are also a lot of European based tour operators with offices in Florida that we've, through this trade show, been able to meet. This will allow them to bring our product to their clients in a much more efficient and personal manner."

Besides the exhibitors, ITB 2000 also provided specialist market segments which included "ITB Youth Travel Center," "Travel by Senior Citizens," "Airlines," "Cruises," "Research and Training Center," and "Travel Technology." In addition, meetings and seminars are held throughout the show to provide a forum for discussion and analysis of specialized topics.

# Vietnam Wall Coming To B.C.

By John J. Roxey

The Broward County Veterans Living Museum is proud to announce that the Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall is coming April 20-26, to the First Seminole Baptist Church Grounds. This is the first time the Moving Wall has ever been on Tribal Grounds. Opening Ceremonies are on April 20. Veteran's Recognition Day is April 22. Easter service is on the 23rd and closing ceremonies will be held on the 26th.

There are many open spots on all days and we would like to invite the Seminole Tribe of South Florida to actively participate in this great honor. The Moving Wall is open for viewing 24 hours a day. Close to 1,000 school children will be viewing the Wall on the 24th through the 26th. This is a great educational opportunity for all veterans to come and fellowship together. We need speakers and other assistance throughout the week. All help would be greatly appreciated.


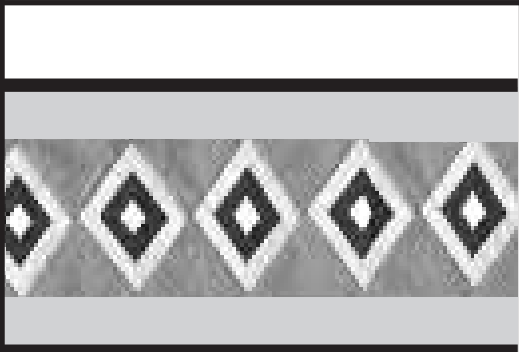
Everyone who is a member of the Museum also belongs to Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 23. We are the men who bring out the Wall every Veterans Day at Big Cypress. The Wall that will be here in April is a half size replica of the Wall in Washington D.C. I thank you in advance for all your help on this matter and great honor to our Veterans.

— John J. Roxey is Chairman/Logistics Officer for Moving Wall 2000.



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

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




Lee Tiger

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

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

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# Mitchell Cypress Has Surprise Party

**By Tommy Benn**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — A surprise birthday party was given in honor of Mitchell Cypress, President of the Board of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, at the Big Cypress Health Clinic, March 30.  
“I couldn’t figure out what was going on. It wasn’t my birthday until April 2,” a surprised Mitchell said. “I saw David’s truck and guessed we had another meeting or something.”  
He was truly surprised and overwhelmed with the turn out of well wishers.

A beautiful plaque was given to him by the Seminole Health Department for all his help and efforts to bring better health care to the Indian Communities. One can have everything he desires in life, but without one’s health he has nothing.

A buffet was enjoyed by all who attended. The centerpieces were quite unique as they were fruit and vegetables arranged as flowers. They were very creative and beautiful, as well as being healthy and appetizing.

Music was provided by the Jonah Cypress Trio much to the enjoyment of guest and staff.  
When asked how old he was, Mitchell replied he was 29 and holding — and losing his grip!

Someone else wanted to cut him in half and count his rings. When asked who was older, him or dirt, Mitchell just smiled and laughed.

While we don’t know for certain, we can say all the fire towers in the area were alerted that in case they saw a bright glow in the sky around Big Cypress on the evening of April 2, not to worry. It would be the glow from Mitchell’s birthday cake!



Director Connie Whidden presents plaque to Mitchell.



Mary Frances Fewell Cypress.

## DeHass

Continued from page 1

As each young hockey goalie-helmeted cowboy comes out of the chute on top of a bucking calf (junior bulls for the teenagers), Coach DeHass is constantly providing on-the-spot pointers: “You’re hanging on with your legs. . . keep your toes out. . . spurs in. . . got a bad habit of trying to hang on with your toes. . .”

Every day is different at the Hollywood Horse Club. Monday, DeHass coaches the cowboys in calf and bull riding, while sister Debbie DeHass takes the cowgirls to Triple Cross for competition. Tuesday, Debbie teaches barrel racing and pole bending. Wednesday, it’s off to Davie for Jackpot Rodeo. Thursday, Bob Motlow teaches roping. Friday, it’s more calf and bull riding. “I wish they had something like this when I was growing up,” says DeHass.

It is those exact words that are echoed by an adult volunteer in the program, a lean, graying cowboy named Bob Freeman. “You come out here and see some of these kids ride,” Freeman adds, “it’ll knock your socks off!”

David DeHass, 41, grew up around horses. “In them days cowboys weren’t supposed to be from Hollywood, just B.C. or Brighton,” DeHass laughs. But not being your typical “urban” cowboy — and honest to a fault — DeHass would just say he was from Hollywood.

DeHass didn’t get to try bull-riding until age 16, when he would take money saved working construction and citrus groves at Big Cypress to pay entrance fees to ride bulls in any rodeo he could find. It was in those days that young bull-riders or would-be bull-riders were pretty much on their own, often relying on some of that liquid courage before jumping in the chute. “In the old days, when we used to get a little drunk, Joe’s bar used to bring a big ol’ cooler,” DeHass recounts. “These days, rodeo is a sober business. Everybody’s serious,” DeHass says.

In 1979, DeHass got severely burned handling hot tar on a roofing job. That landed him a six-week hospital stay. He came out of the hospital all bandaged up, and, against doctor’s orders, went right back into the bucking chute to compete again. But, shortly after that, his mother, Francis Tigertail died tragically in an auto accident. Broken-hearted, both David and Debbie (Indian barrel-racing champion three years in a row back then), decided to quit competing. “She used to come and watch me and my sister,” DeHass remembers about his mother, who was a constant source of encouragement in rodeo or any sport in which they participated.

These days, David and Debbie DeHass are a constant source of encouragement to the 25-30 boys and girls in the Hollywood Horse Club and Rodeo team. According to Recreation Director Moses ‘Big Shot’ Jumper, the program “started about six years ago through the Recreation Department with the help of (Hollywood Board Rep.) Carl Baxley.” Later, Tribal Council funds enabled the purchase of “horses, bulls, sheep, goats and all those things,” according to Jumper. Three years ago, however, Jumper had trouble



Justin Wolf, David DeHass, David Osceola and Bob Motlow (l-r), share in the work to keep riding program running.

finding one person to take time with the kids. He found the answer to his prayers in DeHass, who had already worked a year at the Bill Osceola Arena cleaning stalls and feeding the animals. “He’s really made the program a success,” says Jumper of DeHass.

The program has also bred quite a few success stories. Jarrid Smith, 14, has won three Indian rodeos, including Hollywood and Fun Day in Big Cypress; Clinton Holt, 15, has at least five silver buckles and recently placed 2nd in bull-riding at Brighton; Kyle Jumper, 16, recently won 2nd in bull-riding at the Davie Rodeo; Austin Billie, 16, went to the Indian Rodeo National Finals after only one year in the program; Stephen Billie, 13, who has seven buckles, placed 2nd in bareback riding at the Florida Junior Rodeo Association.

But the Hollywood Horse Club is more than just cranking out new rodeo stars. It’s about building “character, confidence and self esteem,” says Big Shot.

“A lot of kids are doing good,” says DeHass, “learning how to work together, helping each other.”

DeHass doesn’t expect all kids in the program to show up every day and be totally dedicated to the sport of rodeo: “I tell ‘em try everything — baseball, football.”

Just last year, David DeHass rode a bull for the first time in 20 years.

“The kids wanted me to get on and ride one more time.” DeHass’ ride didn’t last that long. “I shouldn’t have started spurring him,” he laughs. “The kids started yelling at me, because I was teaching them not to spur.”DeHass plans to ride again as soon as his broken collarbone heals up. (It was hurt handslinging a calf).

In the meantime, DeHass will usually be found with his sister, and many of the kids’ parents — and assistants such as Justin Wolf, David Osceola, Bob Motlow, Bob Freeman and Ray Rivero — maintaining the Bill Osceola Arena, taking care of the animals and working with the kids.

“I made more money in construction,” he remarks. “But my heart gets pumped when I see them kids ridin.’ I enjoy it. Seeing those kids ridin’ is worth it. When they win . . . or when they make their first ride.”

## ‘Monkey Trouble’ Brings Fun To B.C.

**By Libby Blake**

**BIG CYPRESS** — Finster, star of the 1994 movie *Monkey Trouble*, came to the Big Cypress Gym on March 21, to the delight of the Ahfachkee School and Head Start children.

The first show was exclusively for the Big Cypress and Immokalee Head Start kids. Along with trainer Uncle Lenny, Finster then entertained 45 kindergarten and first grade students with some of the unique antics he performed in the hit movie.

In *Monkey Trouble* Finster plays a kleptomaniacal, organ-grinding monkey. At the Gym he displayed the pickpocketing skills which caused Roger Ebert, nationally known film critic, to say in his review of the movie, “It’s no mistake that the credits for *Monkey Trouble* give top billing to the monkey. He steals the show with a fetching performance that goes beyond training and into acting itself.”

While most of the audience at the Gym had probably never heard of the movie, Finster, fellow monkey performers Chrystal and Peanut, Uncle Lenny, and his son Garrett had all the kids yelling and applauding at their feats. Each child (and some teachers who will remain nameless) got the opportunity to assist in the antics.

After each monkey performed their special tricks, the children got to hold Peanut and have their picture taken. The shots were placed in a special holder made by Uncle Lenny and given to the



It was a barrel full of monkies, but it was all fun.

children as a memento of the visit. In addition, the kids all received “monkey money,” monkey sip cups with straws, monkey pencils, and picture cards of Uncle Lenny and his monkeys.

Finster also drew a special picture for the school and Uncle Lenny awarded the staff a special certificate commemorating the day.

The event was arranged by Big Cypress Recreation Assistant Director Jack Gorton and coordinated with the assistance of Dr. Pat Gaffney, Principal of Ahfachkee School, and Shirley Clay of the Big Cypress Head Start Program.

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# Pool Tournament Brings Best To Tampa

By E. Bowers  
TAMPA — Pool is life.

One builds a body of knowledge early by learning from those who have come before. For those who have passion and focus, success comes early and often: pool becomes a lifelong pursuit, intensely personal because you have only yourself to blame, immensely rewarding when you have lived up to your potential.

For those who take their talent for granted, the sport, itself, catches up with them. Playing pool always came easy, but not anymore. They find themselves chased out of the game by younger players, overpowered by hunger and youth.

What remains constant is the action. The stage on which younger players make their reputations and older players show they still can *play*. Anyone can play pool, but when your pride, reputation --or rent money -- is on the line you have to flat-out *play*.

On Mar 15-18, 69 of the world's greatest nine-ball players came onto Tribal land to *play* for \$50,000 when the Steve Mizerak Senior Tour was staged at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel on the Tampa Seminole Indian Reservation.

Hall of Famer Nick Varner, who has one pocket, straight pool, bank pool, and nine ball titles to his credit, emerged victorious at the end of the five day tournament with a tough win over "King" James Rempe.

The Senior Tour, for players 50 and over, was founded in 1996 by four-time U.S. Open straight pool champion and former Miller Lite spokesman Steve Mizerak. The Tampa tournament, which was the first stop on the 2000 Senior Tour, was the result



Russell Osceola pockets the nine ball, defeating Steve Mizerak in challenge match.

titles and was especially tough playing on snooker tables. In their prime, both players were considered exceptional money players.

"Marino won the All-Around title in Johnson City," said Randy Epperson, assistant Tournament Director, referring to the "Hustler's Jamborees" of the 1960s, in which many of the country's best high-stakes money players matched up with each other in the most popular gambling games: one-pocket, straight pool, and nine ball.

The winners of the tournament played in a round-robin format and the winner was crowned All-Around Champion.

Epperson noted the Senior Tour has given many veteran players like Marino a chance to strut their stuff again. "He was a top, top player, but he didn't get out of Pennsylvania much. Now with the Senior Tour, these guys feel they can compete because, in nine-ball, the age factor is a huge thing," said Epperson.

The match, dubbed "the battle of the Hippie Jimmys" by Tournament Director Scott Smith, was closely contested. The race to 11 match was tied at 4-4, 5-5, 6-6, and 8-8, until Marino began to pocket balls on the break. Reid could only watch, after scratching on the eight to fall behind 10-8, as Marino broke and ran the table to put the match away.

However, the four hottest sticks in the tour-

of months of planning by Mizerak and Councilman David Cypress.

The tournament drew players from the United States, Canada, and Taiwan. Many of the competitors have been playing world-class pool since they were teenagers. Lack of television coverage and tournament prize money forced many of these hugely talented players to toil in anonymity while in the prime of their careers.

Case in point: There was big action on the second day of play — Jimmy Marino of Pittsburgh, PA against Jimmy Reid of Madison, TN. Wearing a silk shirt and confident strut, Marino was well known for being one of the smoothest players in Pennsylvania. The quicker, fast-talking Reid has won numerous eight and nine ball

name were Howard Vickery, Buddy Hall, Jim Rempe, and Nick Varner. Vickery, who won the last Senior Tour stop in French Lick, IN and has made the Final Four in the last three tournaments, had to settle for fourth place after losing to Hall 11-5.

Buddy Hall, a four-time Player of the Year who resides in Seffner, kept the audience on the edge of its seat with some key shots and tricky run-outs. However, he could not get into rhythm, falling to Jim Rempe 11-6. Rempe, who hails from Scranton, PA, overcame an early 4-0 deficit. Rempe never left Hall with an open shot after that and finished the match after Buddy left the six-ball hanging in the pocket.

The finals, a rematch between "King" James Rempe and Nick Varner, matched up two of the most recognizable players on the Senior Tour. Rempe has been on the advisory staff for Meucci cues for many

years and still plays on the competitive Professional Billiards Tour (PBT).

Varner, who comes from Owensboro, KY, also plays on the PBT and is the current reigning World Nine-Ball Champion. A diminutive player with a big game, Varner is the number one ranked player on the Senior Tour.

The final match was an extended race to

13. The match itself was a study in percentages by two of the most disciplined and technically skilled players in the game. Each player maneuvered for position, waiting for the other to leave an opening.

Varner got an early start, leading 3-1, but Rempe came back to tie the match at five games apiece. Both players were unsuccessful on the break so they resorted to safety play to win each game.

The match suddenly shifted gears at 11-10 when Rempe jawed the five ball in the pocket. Varner won the game to tie the match at 11 games apiece and with a liberal dose of body English, he pocketed the nine ball on the ensuing break to reach the hill, 12-11.

Rempe, trailing now after leading the match only moments before was left without a shot on the one ball after Varner's next break came up dry. After sizing up the table, Rempe kicked at the one ball



Remember Howard Vickery in "Color Of Money?" He finished fourth (\$3,000).

with speed, and pocketed the two ball. The audience groaned as the cue ball once again hid behind a ball, hooking it.

Rempe once again measured the kick and, after contact, the one-ball went scuttling towards the corner pocket. Despite a spirited attempt to coax it in, the one sat at the lip of the pocket and Rempe watched as Varner cleared off the remaining balls to pick up the \$10,000 winner's share of the prize fund.

After the tournament, Steve Mizerak and premier cue maker Leonard Bludworth both expressed their appreciation to the Seminole Tribe by donating cues for raffle at the upcoming National Native American Classic in May. Mizerak also presented selections from his personal line of cues to President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Recreation Director George Grasshopper.

Along with their prize money, Varner and Rempe also received large Dreamcatchers to commemorate their visit to the Tampa reservation.

Afterwards, the tournament crew began breaking down the tables and the players made their way towards the door. Back on the road to the next pool hall, or home for work Monday morning, but they'll be at the next tour stop.

Because among all the war stories and jokes, somebody's breaking and running rack after rack, another's moving like he did 30 years ago, and the players want to be there to watch, to remember. They want to be part of the action.



Buddy Hall won \$4,000 for third place.



The legendary Steve Mizerak sizes up a shot.

# Miccosukee ad



SPORTS

EIRA Profile: Jo Leigh Johns

**By Michael James**  
**OKEECHOBEE** – It was a typical Monday evening, Jo Leigh “Boogie” Johns was on horseback at the Brighton arena exercising her horse. Jo Leigh keeps a very busy schedule.

Her first role is Mama to Calgary, the addition to that she is an avid participant in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA), tackling barrel racing and break away roping.

Johns added she is usually gone just about every evening to an event either in Arcadia or Moore Haven. And, this is just her evenings.

During the day she is the Youth Support Coordinator for the Seminole Tribe.

Upon graduation from Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) last year with a Bachelor’s Degree in Liberal Studies, she convinced Tribal Council to implement a program geared specifically for youth.

The program has three objectives:

**\*Motivate high school aged Tribal members** by inviting motivational speakers to talk to the youth and answer any questions on any issue they may have. Three times a month, a different speaker is invited to address the youth about various issues from college to career to basic “life” questions.

**\*The innovative “Parenting Club,”** held once a month. “You could almost call it a support group for the parents,” says Johns, who says the meetings are informal and confidential; even grandparents attend. “The meeting is run by them.”

“I have even learned things about my own parenting,” says Johns, candidly. Most recently, parents from Big Cypress have shown an interest in the program.

Seminole Broadcasting has approached Johns about taping the meetings and later broadcasting them, but due to certain confidentiality issues, the idea was rejected. Therefore, plans to train Tribal members has been suggested.

Johns has a certain goal in mind with the Parenting Club, and that is to form groups

at an early age and remain together throughout high school. The club would be a support group for school readiness.

**\*Outreach or peer counseling.** Johns is on call 24 hours a day and makes appearances at all schools where Tribal members attend.

This means it is not unheard of her to appear in Okeechobee in the morning, receive a call, and be needed in Moore Haven in the afternoon. She makes regular visits to the schools to simply “check up” on students. Johns says she is happy with the response from the students in elementary and middle school, but that the ones in high school are not as responsive.

“I offer my ear, they listen, but they already have their own ideas established and I accept that as long as they know that I am here,” says Johns.

Presently, Johns is responsible for 180 students on Brighton alone. She hopes her program will reach the other reservations soon.

Future plans for the Parenting Club includes several outings where all family members can attend. Although, her role is somewhat mentally taxing and her frustration level often peaks, she says she is doing what she has always dreamed of doing. She is making a difference in not just one life, but several lives.

Jo Leigh wishes to thank her mentor, FGCU Dr.

Susan Stans: “I’d be lost without her.”



Michael James

Jo Leigh “Boogie” Johns and daughter.



**CORRECTION:** Last issue an incorrect photo was used on a story about Shelby DeHass. Pictured above is the real Shelby. Ride ’em cowgirl!



(L-R): Nick Jumper, Clinton Holt, Wilson Bowers, Stephen Billie, Steve Osceola, Shadoe Billie, David Dehass (holding Nick), Paul Bowers, Sr., kneeling - Shelby Dehass with dog.

Rodeo Finals Set April 28-29:  
FJRA Riders Seek Entry Points

**By Benny Secody**

The clock is ticking and with only one more rodeo to rack up those coveted points before the finals on April 28 - 29 in Okeechobee, young cowboys and cowgirls of the Florida Junior Rodeo Association are pushing themselves in preparation for the big event.

The weekend of March 18 - 19 was no exception, as the Seminole Horse Club/rodeo team was in Moore Haven to do the best they could in their respective categories. Those in attendance — Nick Jumper, Stephen Billie, Clinton Holt, Wilson Bowers, Tina Shadow Billie, Jade Braswell, Sheyanna Osceola and Shelby DeHass — put on an impressive show.

Clinton Holt is currently in second place in the bareback category; and Stephen Billie is holding onto second in bull riding. Both helped solidify their positions. There are currently three Seminole kids in the top 10 in their categories. Shelby Osceola is hanging onto her sixth place in the goat tie, with Shadow Billie not far behind in the standings.

Shadow Billie is overcoming her hesitation to push herself to the limit after having her horse fall on her some time ago. She currently competes in barrel racing, goat tie and pole bending.

Debbie DeHass, a barrel racer since she was a youngster, experienced a similar situation. For the first time ever, Debbie was thrown from her horse, and although she vowed to finish the day, soon realized she had dislocated her hip. She too, knows the importance of getting right back on and conquering fear.

Three of the Seminole cowboys who entered were honored at the end of the event on Sunday with third, fourth and sixth place prizes. Stephen Billie of Hollywood placed third in the bull-riding cate-



Nick Jumper tries to hang in there.



Cheyanna Osceola rounds the final pole.

gory, scoring 68 points. Clinton Holt took fourth place, trailing Stephen by only three points at 65, while Wilson Bowers of Big Cypress took sixth place.

With the finals right around the corner, the push is also on to maintain good grades to insure participation. The kids schedule their time for homework to coincide with practice. Most are doing very well in school as well as in their horsemanship abilities.

Rodeo officials announced several times that a count is needed for the finals banquet, which is being held on April 30 in Okeechobee. All interested cowboys and cowgirls who want to attend, need to contact David DeHass with a count so he can get everyone who plans to attend, registered with the banquet committee. Also of note, FJRA members need not be in the finals to attend the banquet, as everyone is welcome.

The final weekend rodeo will be April 15 - 16, in Bunnell.

Tight Finish Marks Tournament

**TAMPA** – Cool temperatures and hot temperatures March 17 Tampa golf tournament held at the Walden Lakes Country Club. A heated discussion over scoring marked the low point of a very competitive tournament.

Only three strokes separated the top five teams, with three teams posting a 66. The team of Marl Osceola, Cicero Osceola, Charlie Cypress, and Leroy King received a shot in the arm on the #10 hole. After a good drive, the team was laying 220 yards out on the par 5 when Marl sank a seven wood to record a rare double-eagle.

“It bounced off the front fringe and rolled right into the hole,” recalled Cicero.

The team of Max, Melissa, Mitch, and Kahaine Osceola took first place with a 63.

The results are:

**4-man Scramble-** 1) (63) Max Osceola, Jr., Melissa Osceola, Mitch Osceola, Kahaine Osceola 2) (65) Jimbo Osceola, Bo Young, Dino Rowland, Jerry Ortiz 3) (66) Joe Frank, Terri Hahn, Abe Rockwell 4) (66) Marl Osceola, Cicero Osceola, Charlie Cypress, Leroy King 5) (66) Mike Micco, Jahna

Smith, Carla Gopher, George Grasshopper .

**Most Honest Score-** Alan Jumper, Lawrence Osceola, Joe Osceola, David Osceola.

**Closest to Pin-** #4- Joe Frank, #6- Mitch Osceola, #8- Joe Osceola, Jr., #17- Jahna Smith.

**Longest Drive-** David Osceola, Terri Hahn.

Hollywood Recreation Spring Break  
Activities Schedule

**Monday, April 17** – Boy’s ATV ride, van leaves at 9 a.m. and Pool Party at 1 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 18** – Girl’s ATV ride, van leaves at 9 a.m. and Pool Party at 1 p.m.

**Wednesday, April 19** – Movies, van leaves at 12:30 p.m. and Boy’s Club hunting trip.

**Thursday, April 20** – Skating, van leaves at 1 p.m. and movies at gym at 1 p.m.

**Friday, April 21** – Bowling, van leaves at 11 a.m. and Horse Club’s Trail Ride & Camping.

For more information, please call Hollywood Recreation at 954-989-9457.

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SINGLES/DOUBLES  
MAY 28-29

AT HOLIDAY BOWLING  
CENTER  
ENTRY FEE - \$16 PER  
PERSON/PER EVENT

Mail entries no later than May15, 2000.  
Early entries will be given first, second,  
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squad times will be accepted, provided  
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No entry will be accepted unless accom-  
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Florida

Bowling Tournament

No personal checks accepted. For more  
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Cypress Recreation (863) 983- 9659.



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MUST SHOW TRIBAL ID  
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# Roberts Ranch Holds Roundup

**By Tommy Benn**  
**IMMOKALEE** — The Roberts family of Immokalee, long time friends of the Seminole, of the Big Cypress and Immokalee communities, held its first annual Roberts Ranch Roundup Saturday, April 1.

The event was held at the "Old Homeplace," home to the Roberts family since 1914 when Robert Roberts brought his wife Sarah and their seven children to Immokalee in oxcart wagons. The property has been turned over to the county as a historical museum.

The Roberts family donated the house and four acres of the ranch where the original building was located in 1996. Recently the county purchased additional acreage adjoining the Homeplace for a reported \$600,000 to bring the future museums site locations to 15 acres.

It will take an estimated five years and approximately \$1 million to complete the project. The museum, headed by Donna Ridgewood, will be going to Tallahassee and applying for a \$30,000 grant to help get things underway. Ridgewood is also the director of the Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City.

The festivities started with a cattle drive and parade with both remaining children of Robert and Sarah Roberts taking part. Chief Jim Billie headlined the musical entertainment.

On the Homeplace property historical reenactors showed the visitors what early Florida life was like. Judge Nelson Bailey shared Florida's cattle history. Florida's 5th Calvary was on hand, led by none other than Teddy Roosevelt himself.

The legendary Swamp Owl and Seminole Cowhunter Jesse Necoletos answered many a question for the youngsters. Ralph West displayed his collection of tools of the Cowhunters trade, which included saddles, spurs, cow whips branding irons, horse and mule bits.

Buddy Taylor of Felda handled the cooking chores of barbecued chicken and beef served with his



**MATRIARCH:** She stood next to a Model T. Or is that a Model A?

local Seminole fairly and were honest with us," said Elaine Aguilar, councilwoman from the Immokalee Reservation. "They always helped us whenever we needed help."

"We traded at the Roberts General Store. We traded alligator and otter pelts for store goods. The older brother Dios ran the store and gave us credit when times were hard. In the days when we had to work the fields picking tomatoes, and peppers, or cut, grade and load watermelon trucks to make a money to feed our families."

In his lifetime Robert Roberts saw his cattle empire grow from a 300-head herd to an estimated 8,000 cattle operation. From the original 60 acre home- stead to a 40,000 acre cattle ranch. The elder Roberts was one of the first county commissioners when Collier County was estab- lished in the late 1920s.

"The county seat was in Everglades City and my father would make the trip from Immokalee and it would take him 3 or 4 days," Bobby Roberts said, recalling many of the old memories. "There were no roads and you never knew from day to day what the woods would be like. If it was rainy and wet you traveled one way. If it was dry it was rainy another. It's a long way to anywhere from Immokalee. "I had hoped they would have a dance to go along with the roundup," added Bobby. "We used to have them. The dance would end at midnight and the boys would fight till daylight."

"We survived the Texas Tick Infestation," he said. "I remember Range Riders killing deer by the thousands. The Seminoles and the U.S. Government almost started the 4th Seminole War over the deer killing."

"The range cattle had to be dipped every six weeks. Range Riders would count the cattle and if they weren't accounted for the rancher was fined by a head count. Then came the God awful screw- worm epidemic. If a cow had an open sore it had to be doctored."

"A cowhunter would carry a can of medicine with a dauber brush and paint the black greasy medicine on the open sore. That's when the cowhunters start- ed carrying ropes on their saddles. We tied our ropes to our saddles — we never dallied off like the team ropers of today do. The days were long and hard, but somehow we survived. I guess you had to be as tough and rough as the country itself."



**An old butt-squeezin' saddle.**



**BIG CHICKEE:** The old Roberts Family house still stands.

world famous Gator Sauce. For the sweet tooth, a cracker delight "sour orange pie" was on hand. Along with Chief Billie and the Raiford Starke and, plenty of bluegrass and old timed gospel was enjoyed by the spectators.

"The Roberts family had always treated the

## George Strait May Come To Okeechobee

**By Tommy Benn**  
**OKEECHOBEE** — Tractor Supply Company is coming to Okeechobee, and perhaps we'll get a surprise visit from country superstar and company spokesman George Strait.

The Nashville Tennessee Company announced it would be taking over the old Wal-Mart Store building at the Northlake Village Shopping Center. Tractor Supply will hold its grand opening June 24.

Okeechobee was selected for the site of the company's latest store because it fits all the require- ment and demands to reach the store chain's varied customer base. The company sells to large full-time and part-time ranchers and farmers as well as week-

end, backyard and hobbyist agriculturists.

The store will carry a full inventory of farm and ranch supplies, feed animal health care products work clothes. It will feature a full lawn and garden supply center and hardware automotive supplies.

Currently there are 270 retail Tractor Supply Stores in 26 states. There are plans to open 10 stores in south and central Florida by mid-summer. Started in 1938 as a mail order tractor parts business, it is the largest owner of retail agricultural stores in the United States.

Corporate spokesperson George Strait may come for the grand opening of the Okeechobee store. Plans are still incomplete at this time.

## Cowboys Begin Rounding Up The Herd

**By T. R. Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — The Seminole cow- boys are back in the saddle again, beginning the annual task of penning the vast herds of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

From the Pahokee prairies around Lake Okeechobee to the marsh wetlands of the Big Cypress swamp, the cattle will be brought to the cowpens, worked then turned out until sale time late April or early May.

The annual round-up, which started the first week in March, should take about two months from start to finish, allowing for a few badly needed rain days.

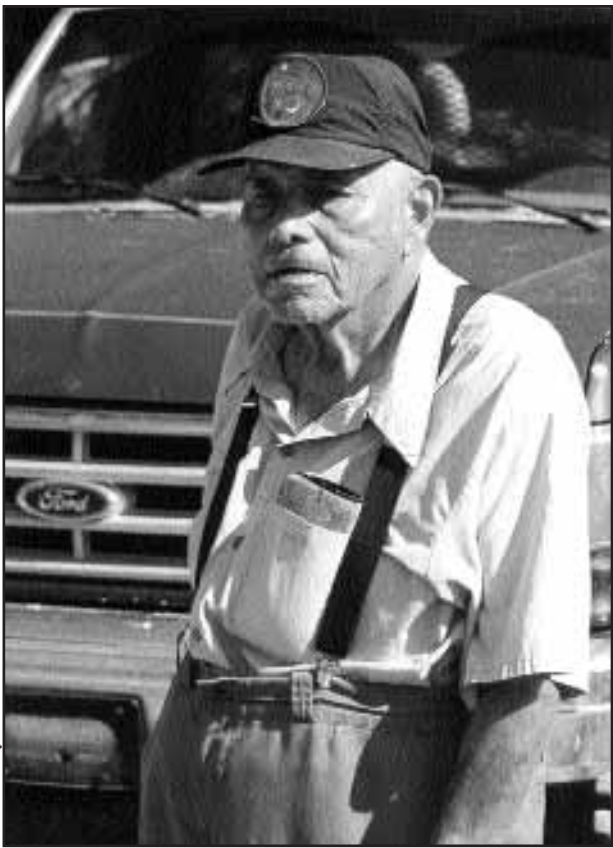
During the gathering, cowboys work from daylight to dark because Murphy's Law is sure to come in to play: what can go wrong, will.

From broken hydraulic hoses, and branding pots, squeeze chutes that can't be moved because the wheel spindles have worked off, fences that were all right yesterday somehow are down today. It's a never-ending battle between the cow crews and Mother Nature and time.

At the Brighton Reservation, 40 some cattle owners covering 35,000 acres and 4,500 head of brood cows will be handled this year by Scott "Cotton" Baxley.

Paul Bowers will act as cow boss for the Big Cypress cattle owners until the position is filled by a permanent man to replace Jonah Cypress, who retired earlier this year. The 30 cattle owners, with their combined 2,900 head of brood cows on the Big Cypress' 40,000 acre reservation, hope to finish a little earlier than the Brighton cow crew.

Dr. Kenneth Keen of the Clewiston Animal Clinic will again vaccinate the heifer calves for Brucellosis, and bleed the cows and bulls for recerti-



**Original Brighton cattleman Tom Bowers.**

fication of the owner's herds. This is the 14th year Keen has worked the Seminole herd.

The cow crew's responsibility is to vacci- nate for Vibrio-Lepto-Tric — either a 4-way or 8- way vaccine, worm delouse and dehorn each animal.

Dr. Keen will work one herd in Brighton for "Cotton Baxley" in the morning then travel to Big Cypress and works the cat- tle penned there in the afternoon. Paul Bowers and his cow crew say it takes for a long hard day.

Gary Raulerson and his crew have started working the cattle on the Miccosukee Land Lease that houses some 3,000 brood cows on the 10,000-acre lease. Raulerson will then move his crew to the Parker Island Lease and assist cattle foreman Jerry Skates in work- ing the 1,500 brood cows there on the 4,000- acre lease.

Doctors Debbie or Dennis Van Rokel, a husband and wife team of veterinari- ans from Alva, will certify the Board Cattle operations.

After the cattle have been worked, the Tribe will ready for the annual production sale. The sale has been scheduled for the last of April or May with a delivery date of July or August.

Proper fertilizing and mowing of pastures help in keeping the stock cattle in good flesh, which means good health. The calves that come from both the board and individual Seminole owned herds are some of the best calves shipped in the Nation.

With the livestock market prices very strong at this date, producers are looking forward to a banner year at the annual Spring sale.



**TRUSTY STEED:** Paul Bowers cares for his horse.

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# Florida AIM Attacks Parade

**TALLAHASSEE** — On April 1, approximately 40 Florida AIM members and supporters from AIM Support Groups in St. Petersburg, West Palm Beach, Tallahassee and Fort Lauderdale and others protested the racist parade of genociders known as “Springtime Tallahassee.”

While local “Springtime” organizers have claimed to be making efforts to remove Andrew Jackson, he remained in the parade. And new efforts to glorify Indian killers were spotted throughout the parade with floats honoring the conquistadors, U.S. Cavalry and Roughriders; even the Buffalo Soldiers were added to honor the genocidal assaults on Indian people.

Florida AIM, after protesting non-disruptively for three years, began the escalation of its efforts to halt this genocidal glorification ceremony when the Florida AIM State Executive Director Sheridan Murphy went into the street to confront the “Andrew Jackson.”

He was joined by nine Florida AIM and AIM Support Group members — North Florida Regional AIM Director David Narcomey, St. Augustine AIM member Bruce Felton, St. Augustine AIM Director Michelle Davis, State AIM Security Director George Garcia, Gainesville AIM Support Group Member Barbara Howe, West Palm Beach Support Group Coordinator Maria Zwicker, Red

Florida Support Group Coordinator Tom Scott, Tallahassee support group member Roy Saunders, and St. Petersburg Support Group coordinator Rebecca Johns.

Murphy then threw a blood on the street and managed to cover “Andrew Jackson” in blood forcing him off the parade route. Florida AIM Security intervened during the brief detention of Sheridan Murphy by Leon County Sheriff’s deputies and it was later decided not to arrest Murphy or any of the other protestors.

Florida AIM will continue to offer the dialogue of cooperation to the “Springtime Tallahassee” officials who should make no mistake, Florida AIM is fully prepared for the rhetoric and actuality of confrontation.

It is our vow that the “Springtime Tallahassee” parade must change now, or die. We will continue to escalate our efforts to force the removal of all other glorifications of the murderers of Indian peoples. This year 10 AIM members and SG members stood in the street and one threw blood on one of the many potential targets glorifying the genocide of Indian people

Next year we will miss no target and spare no effort to stop this heinous parade.

— *Florida AIM News Wire.*

# DNC Appoints Native American Affairs Director

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Democratic National Committee (DNC) National Chair Joe Andrew today announced the appointment of Holly Cook as Director of Native American Affairs.

Cook comes to the DNC from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and Holland & Knight, a Washington, D.C., law firm.

“We are excited to have Holly Cook join our team as our new Director of Native American Affairs,” said Joe Andrew. “Her experience with working on issues of concern to Indian Country will help spread our progressive democratic message for America throughout the country.”

Holly Cook served as Director of Federal Relations for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and a Senior Consultant for Native American Affairs at the Holland Knight Law Firm. Prior to that, Cook served in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Cook was also an instructor at Leech Lake Tribal College, Leech Lake Reservation.

“Holly will be an asset to the Democratic Party as we continue to reach out to Indian Country,” added Andrew. “The Democratic National Committee is fortunate to have someone with Holly’s skill and experience,” said Andrew.

A member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indian in northern Minnesota, Cook received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND and MBA from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN.

The mission of the Native American Affairs office at the Democratic National Committee is to increase the participation and representation of Native Americans in the Democratic Party and the political system. It also strives to elect Democrats to all levels of office, offer training in Indian issues, and increase the knowledge of American Indians about the Democratic Party through training and programs.

The Director of Native American Affairs provides outreach, education, and advocacy on issues that affect Native Americans.

# 7th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference

Deadline for applications are June 9, 2000. Due to the limit of participants, when you register for the 7th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference, you must commit yourself to participate for the duration of the conference.

Those who are active in support groups, or have participated in treatment centers, or who are pursuing a healthier drug and alcohol free lifestyle will have first priority if registration exceeds the limit. It is the Conference Attendee’s responsibility to make the proper arrangements with your supervisor concerning your absence from work. A letter of notification will be sent to confirm that you are a participant in this year’s conference. Lack of participation will result in a letter to your supervisor.

For an application please contact: **Hollywood:** Ralph Billie at 954-9652-2009; **Brighton:** Michele Thomas or Rita Gopher at 863-763-4128; **Big Cypress:** Glen Osceola at 863-983-4141 or Helene Buster at 863-983-5151; **Immokalee:** Billie Brodway at 941-657-6567; **Tampa:** Tom Ryan at 813-621-2811; **Fort Pierce:** Sally Tommie at 954-967-3700; and **Miccosukee:** Andy Buster at 305-223-8380.

giant sunglasses as a prop.

“One of the cops showed up with a pole and a noose at the end, just in case the alligator ran away,” stated Tiger who referred to the PAPD as “city slickers.”

Why bring a Big Cypress gator all the way to New York City to sleep in a crate overnight and spend a couple hours in an airplane lobby with a taped up mouth and people sitting on him?

Someone dropped the ball.

“It wasn’t us,” said Lucy Evanicki, the Billie Swamp Safari marketing director who arranged for the gator and made sure all the necessary permits were in hand to transport the gator from Florida. “We had our act together. But we had no control over what happened at their end.”

According to PAPD Officer Jerry O’Brien, the event could have been staged without incident had his department known in advance and precautions been agreed to and implemented.

Notification to local authorities of staged events at the airport is the responsibility of the hosting organization — in this case Delta Airlines.

Seminole Tourism and the Tribe did get some publicity out of the event. Local print and television media were on hand in Fort Lauderdale as Big Al was placed on the plane for the trip to New York. The gator also drew a lot of notice from fellow travelers.

“Word kind of spread like wildfire that there was a special passenger here today,” stated Chuck Malkus, of IMS Public Relations, hired by Tiger to coordinate the event with Delta and the CVB.

The “wild fire” never burned hot enough for the press in the largest media town in the world to feel the heat, however.

“Most of the passengers’ biggest concern was that we were traveling at lunchtime, and did the alligator get fed before he boarded?” added Malkus. This was a good question since Delta Express is a no-frills flight — meaning no food on board. Big Al, however, was fine. As a Billie Swamp Safari gator he was well fed and cared for. He was the only passenger on board with a full stomach.

Big Al also had more leg room than his fellow passengers. One hundred-nineteen seats — and one bathroom — are crammed into the Boeing 737-200 plane.

Today, Big Al is back wallowing in the gator pit next to the Swamp Water Café at Billie Swamp Safari. “I’d say his flyin’ days are over,” said Gator John. “He don’t care about New York City.”

it, you can achieve wonderful things. That’s the message for young people. Set a goal and work towards it.”

This year, Edith Osman, the current president of the Florida Bar Association and the second woman in the Bar’s 49-year history to hold the position, was also included in the exhibit.

The photographic documentary features women like international superstar and Grammy award winning recording artist Gloria Estefan, the late environmental advocate Marjory Stoneman Douglas, record braking tennis champion Chris Evert and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen among the other women who have been honored.

The exhibition runs through May 1. It is open to the public at no charge. For more information call Ms. Busch at (305) 661-8018.

## Betty

**Continued from page 1**

Scherley Busch, a noted photographer, said Betty was photographed beneath the Council Oak, a large oak tree on the Hollywood Reservation, because it reveals Betty’s background.

As a young woman Betty recalls traveling Miccosukee, Creek and English for the elders as they met under the Council Oak to organize the Seminole Tribe in the late 1950s.

Noted Miami historian Arva Moore Parks McCabe, whose photograph is also included in the exhibit, said Betty is a woman who has made a large contribution to the history of Florida.

“It was about time,” said Parks about Betty’s recognition. “She [Betty] has done so much for her people and contributed to their development that she

is an inspiration to all of us.”

Betty Mae, who was the first female elected chairman — or chief — of a major Indian Tribe, helped advance the medical care of her people. She has authored two books, was the first editor of the Tribal newspaper and appointed by President Richard Nixon to a term on the National Indian Council. Betty has also been named ‘Woman of the Year’ by the Jewish Defense League, ‘Pioneer Woman’ by the city of Dania, and inducted in the Florida Hall of Fame.

About her many achievements, Betty humbly expressed that her source of inspiration has always been her Tribe. To other women striving to achieve their goals, Betty said there is no mystery to it. She said that anyone with determination can make things happen.

“Any woman can do it,” Betty asserted. “It’s just a matter of determination. If you set a goal and work towards

it, you can achieve wonderful things. That’s the message for young people. Set a goal and work towards it.”

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# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday



**Happy 40th Birthday, Mom (Barbara Osceola Butera).** What more can I say about the light of my life, other than you are my mother and my best friend. Ever since I can remember you have been so caring and thoughtful not only to me, but to everybody else.

The two of us have been through thick and thin together, but yet we are ready to meet any other challenge that may rise. I am so fortunate to have a mother I can count on and run to for whatever the case may be, whether it be good or bad. Thanks for being a wonderful mentor for me and for caring for me.

I want this birthday to be the best it can be for you, because you deserve it. I love you, Mom! From your daughter, **Ciara Billie**.



**New arrival: Trinity Andra Beth Bowers** born Jan. 28, 2000 at 1 p.m. Trinity weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long. Congratulations **Elrod Bowers** and **Holly Tiger**.

## Congratulations

**Congratulations! Morningstar Webster.** I read *The Seminole Tribune* and saw your score for Beginners Barrel Racing. I am so proud of you and **Danielle** also. Hugs and kisses to you both. Daddy loves you both very much. Keep up the good work. I will keep reading the newspaper to watch for your picture and your scores. Hugs and kisses: Daddy, **Daniel Webster Sr.**

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Department of Education would like to congratulate Hollywood GED graduate, **Olivia Cypress**. Olivia received her GED on March 17, 2000. She is now employed with the Travel Department.

The Hollywood GED program is located at the DSO building. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are interested in getting your GED, contact Wendy Green at 954-989-6840, ext 101.

## Deadlines

### Seminole Tribune

May 5, Issue • Deadline April 21  
May 16, Issue • Deadline May 12  
June 16, Issue • Deadline June 2

## Notices

### Health Notice

Attention Diabetic Patients:

Rezulin, a drug used by diabetics has been taken off the market due to its effects on the liver.

All diabetic patients are advised to stop taking this drug and contact your medical doctor/Seminole Health Department immediately.

Patients previously taking Rezulin will be placed on a different drug/medication.

— *The Seminole Health Department.*

**Car & Boat Auction** — April 2, at 9 a.m. By the Salv Auction, next ones will be May 20, June 17 and July 29. For more information call 954-463-3725.

**Wolf's Flat EOD Conference** — July 23 — 26, at the Round Up Centre in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. First Nations coming together Sharing Experience To Clean Up Indigenous Lands. To register: by phone; 1-888-341-1011 or 1-403-269-1011, by e-mail; tamgrp@cadvision.com, by fax at 1-403-269-1438, by mail to Wolf's Flat Ordinance Disposal Corp, c/o Suite 600, 808-4th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P3E8.

**Bunny Breakfast & Train Ride** — April 15 & April 22 — Family event includes Meet the Bunny, travel by train to Deerfield Beach and receive a souvenir gift, 7:15 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. For info call 954-921-3404, adults \$13, children \$11.

**23rd Annual Lifesaving Competition** — April 21 — April 23. Contact Jim Shoemaker at 954-921-3423.

**Kuumba Festival 2000** — Sat., April 22 — 9:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m. at Young Circle Park. Free. Call 921-3404 or Lamar Davis at 954-921-3447.

**Arbor Day Tree Give-Away** — Sat., April 29. Free trees to Hollywood residents with driver's license & water bill. At Young Circle Park. Contact Grances Nip at Public Works 954-967-4567.

**Hollywood Medical Center May Day 5K Run** — Sun., April 30 at 7:30 a.m.. Contact Peter Mercer at 954-985-6241.

**Food Handler Certification Training and Exam** — April 19, 2000. Class begins at 9:00 a.m., exam to follow at 2:00 p.m., registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. To register contact Joan Tavalara at 954-370-3725, ext. 234.

**6th Annual Running The Red Road** — Sat., May 13, 2000. A tradition in San Diego as a community-wide event combining Native American cultural awareness and physical activity into a day of fun for the entire family. Featuring a 10K, 5K Fun Run/Walk and 1K Children's run. For info contact Lucinda at 619-641-2377.

**23rd Annual Indian Education Pow Wow** — Sat., May 13, 2000, "Honoring Our Elders" at Hoover High school, San Diego, CA. There is no admission charge, please bring your own chair. Call 858-627-7362 for more information.

**The Tribal Constitutional Symposium** — May 14 — 17, 2000 in

Phoenix, AZ. "Laying the Cornerstone for Strong Nations" As tribal leaders and tribal government officials, you are charged with the task of building and maintaining a strong nation — a nation worthy of respect from its own citizens and form other governments. This session will examine all aspects of developing, adopting, amending, and enforcing a tribal constitution. Call 1-800-992-4489 for brochure or information.

**12th Annual San Diego American Culture Days** — Sat., May 20 and Sun., May 21, 2000. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., both days, in San Diego's Balboa Park on the corner of Park Blvd. and Presidents Way. Call 619-281-5964 for more information.

**Skullyville Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk** — April 29, 2000. To commemorate the paths of those who first arrived in Indian Territory along the Trail of Tears. For more information, please call 580-924-8280 extension 2132.

**Gathering of Nations Pow Wow** — April 27 — 29, 2000 at the Pit in Albuquerque, NM. For tickets and info call 505-836-2810 or visit [www.gatheringofnations.org](http://www.gatheringofnations.org).

**Native American Language Services** — Train your own Tribal Language Specialist. For any Native American Language, contact or order from Dr. Julian Granberry at 800-484-8445 (Pin #5794). E-mail: [nalserv@svic.net](mailto:nalserv@svic.net).

**FREE "How To" Car Care Classes** — April 29, at 10 a.m. and April 30, at noon. Each class will run two hours and feature hands-on demonstration. To be held at Discount Auto Parts at 1511 S. State Road 7, Hollywood and 12120 S.W. 117th Aven., Kendall.

**Culture-Based Curriculum Development Workshop** — July 10-13, 2000 in Warm Spring, Oregon. Sponsored by American Indian Institute, Norman, OK. Visit us on the web at: [www.occe.ou.edu/aai](http://www.occe.ou.edu/aai). Make you reservations no later than June 10. To register call 405-325-2248 or 800-522-0772, ext. 2248, fax: 405-325-7164. For additional workshop information call 405-325-4127.

**Third Annual Toombsboro Inter-tribal Pow Wow** — September 7 — 10 in Toombsboro, Georgia. Contact Jerry Lang at 912-377-8621.

**Stretch & Sculpt Class** — Every Friday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., held at the Hollywood Recreation Center. Please call Toni at 962-2009.

**7th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference** — July 17 — 21, 2000 at the Marco Island Hilton. Deadline for applications are June 9, 2000. Contact your health centers for more information and applications.

**Spring Break for Preschool Programs** will be April 17 — 21. The center will be opened only for parents who are working, in a two parent home both parents must be working. A form for Spring Break must be filled out before your child/children can attend. Forms can be picked up from the Parent Involvement Aide. Deadline for forms to be turned in is Friday, April 14, 200. (No exception!) Regular school will resume on Monday, April 24th. Questions call 797-1441, ext. 1105.

## Job Announcements

**Position:** Survey Party Chief  
**Location:** Water Resource Management  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** Jan. 27, 00  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$14.03 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Staff Nutritionist  
**Location:** Health Department  
Brighton  
**Opening:** February 2, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$30,000/Yearly (Negotiable) Plus Benefits

**Position:** Maintenance Worker  
**Location:** Building and Grounds  
Brighton  
**Opening:** February 24, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$6.50 Per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Operator Maintenance  
**Location:** Trainee  
Utilities — Hollywood  
**Opening:** February 23, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$8.00 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Dental Assistant  
**Location:** Health (Hollywood)  
**Opening:** Feb. 11, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$10.00 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Assistant Cook/Janitor  
**Location:** Nutrition (Hot Meals)  
Hollywood  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Assistant Education  
**Location:** Counselor  
Education (Big Cypress)  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$7.18 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Certified Behavioral  
**Location:** Analyst (LaBelle)  
Health (Big Cypress)  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$25,000 — 35,000 annually plus benefits

**Position:** Direct Care Aides  
**Location:** (5 needed in LaBelle)  
Health Department  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$10.00 — 15.00 per hour full time

**Position:** Alternative High School  
**Location:** Teacher in Math and Science  
Ahfachkee School  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Based on salary schedule

**Position:** Assistant Cook (Brighton)  
**Location:** Preschool Program  
**Opening:** February 9, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$8.29 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Speech Language  
**Location:** Therapist  
Ahfachkee School  
**Opening:** February 22, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Based on Instructional Salary Scale

**Position:** Reading Specialist  
**Location:** Ahfachkee School  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** January 12, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Instructional salary scale plus benefits

**Position:** Transporter  
**Location:** Health (Big Cypress)  
**Opening:** January 11, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$7.90 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Teacher Aide II — 2 need/1  
**Location:** year olds & infants  
Education Preschool  
Hollywood  
**Opening:** February 29, 2000  
**Closing:** March 14, 2000  
**Salary:** \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Maintenance Supervisor  
**Location:** Buildings and Grounds  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** March 8, 2000  
**Closing:** March 22, 2000  
**Salary:** \$8.00 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Classroom Teacher  
**Location:** Ahfachkee School  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** November 22, 1999  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Negotiable (Instructional Salary Schedule)

**Position:** Background Investigator  
**Location:** Hollywood  
**Opening:** March 31, 2000  
**Closing:** April 14, 2000  
**Salary:** \$9.00 per hour plus benefits

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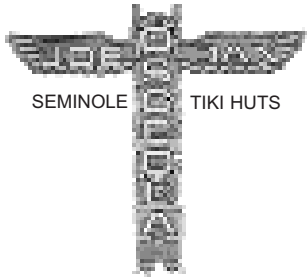
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# Diabetes Program Screens Over 200

**By Dan McDonald**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Over 200 Tribal members received diabetes screenings the last week of March as part of the American Diabetes Alert program sponsored by the American Diabetes Association.

Physician's assistant Susanne Davis, the Tribe's diabetes coordinator, and Toni Taglione, the Hollywood and Big Cypress health educator, conducted the tests at several sites on the Hollywood Reservation on March 28.

"The response was real good," Susanne said of the 70 tests the pair performed on that day alone. "The word is really getting out on diabetes and how important it is that people in high risk categories have their blood tested."

"It's important that people get tested. Diabetes can be controlled if it's discovered. And, if you take the proper treatment, many of the more serious complications can be avoided or minimized."

According to the ADA, diabetes is called the silent killer. It is estimated that 16 million people have diabetes, but that one out of every three victims is unaware that their body is having trouble manufacturing and using sugar normally.

Every minute, at least one person is diagnosed with diabetes. You are at higher risk if:

- \*Member of a high-risk ethnic group, including African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Asian American or Pacific Islander.
- \*You are overweight.
- \*You have high blood pressure.

says. "But there are some warning signs a person can watch for, including extreme thirst, frequent urination and unexplained weight loss."

"The Health Department is doing everything we can to make sure that



Suzanne Davis, and Toni Taglione (l-r) test Joel Frank and Virginia Mitchell in office lobby.

- \*You have a family history of diabetes.
- \*You have a history of diabetes during pregnancy or you are a woman who has had a baby weighing more than 9 pounds at birth.
- \*"Often people can have diabetes for years without realizing it," Suzanne

everyone gets the message to have their blood checked. It's important that everyone get tested, especially if they're in the high risk category."

For more information, contact Susanne Davis at (954) 962-2009.

## HUMOR

# Dear Raiford Starke:

Well, here I am, Raiford Starke and I'm in the dog house. My girlfriend Lowella is screaming at me to clear the hallways in our house. You see, there are these large bags of U.S. Mail everywhere and I admit, I've been a little lax in answering my fan mail. So here goes:

**Dear Raiford:**  
Why do you wear that big, black hat?  
**June Tiger Hollywood**

*Truth is, It's to hide those beautiful golden locks of blond hair that grow all over the top of my head that chicks go crazy over. Especially the German ones. It just became too much for my Lowella, who became rather uncomfortable with all the extra female attention I was getting. So to appease her and keep all womankind under control, I leave my hat on!*

**Dear Raiford:**  
So really, why do you wear that big, black hat?  
**Rhonda Roff Boca Raton**

*Gosh, my fans just won't let that one go, will they? You really want to know the truth? Well, okay, now that you've asked me, here goes: It's really to make me appear taller, and by golly, it works! You see, I'm really only five feet, two inches tall. . .*

**Dear Raiford:**  
So what's your take on the whole Elian controversy?  
**Ray Beccera Hialeah**

*Controversy? I didn't know there was a controversy, but now that you've asked me, here goes: To tell you the truth, I OD'd on this Elian stuff a long time ago. I mean, look at the pattern here: First you have Elian, then you got yer Elian II and so on. I mean, can anyone stop this thing, and what else has Sigourney Weaver really done in the last 20 years?*

**Dear Raiford:**  
You seem to be a bit disturbed. Were you abused as a child?  
**Pat Wickman Big Cypress**

*Well now, that seems to be a rather personal question, but now that you've asked me, here goes: I don't have any memory of any real abuse as a child. I mean, we grew up right next door to a radioactive waste dump just on the edge of Starkansaw, because my*



*daddy Alcatraz Starke believed in having a nuclear family. So, I don't believe I've suffered any abuse in this life, but previous lives are a different story. I remember one day I was sitting on a park bench, checking out the college basketball scores in the sports page, when I looked up and saw this sign by the lake that said, "Warning: Please don't feed or molest the alligators." That right there must have triggered one of those "past life regressions," for when I went to sleep that night, I had this strange dream that I was an alligator in a previous life — one of them Florida 'gators, and I must have been in ancient Greece because I was being molested by Spartans!*

# DVA Searching For Agent Orange Victims

**HOLLYWOOD** — Stephen D. Bowers says that the Department of Veterans Affairs is looking for veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide used in Vietnam.

- According to DVA:
- \*An estimated 3.1 million veterans served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in the South China Sea).
  - \*An estimated 2.6 million personnel served within the borders of North Vietnam and in adjacent waters.
  - Agent Orange was a herbicide used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove cover for the enemy. Agent Orange spraying missions were flown in Vietnam between January 1965 and April 1970. Shipped in orange-striped barrels, it was a reddish-brown liquid containing four herbicides: 2, 4, 5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4, 5-T), 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D), cacodylic acid and picloram.
  - The 2, 4, 5-T was contaminated in the manufacturing process with dioxin. Several herbicides were sprayed in Vietnam at different times — during different years as well as

during different seasons because of the variety of vegetation and environmental conditions.

The history of herbicides for military use dates to World War II. During the early part of the war, interest arose in chemicals that could be used for crop destruction. Two chemicals were developed as a result of those early efforts — 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T. Although neither chemical was used in World War II, the value of their use in weed and brush programs was recognized, and both chemicals have been used widely throughout the world since the 1940s by farmers, foresters and homeowners.

The VA has offered special access to health services and studies since 1978, when it initiated a medical surveillance program for Vietnam veterans with health concerns. By 1981, VA offered priority medical care to Vietnam veterans with any health problems which may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure. That program continues today.

If you feel you may have been exposed to Agent Orange, or have any questions, please call Stephen Bowers, (954) 966-6300, ext. 1480.

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# Have You Filled Out The Census Form? Debi Lowe Is Counting On You

**By Debi Lowe**  
April 1, 2000 was National Census Day. Have you been counted?  
Since 1790, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution mandate, the Census or “count of every person in the U.S. living in a particular household” has been performed every 10 years.  
Today, accurate census information ensures billions of federal monies are distributed properly. Also, population numbers determine congressional representation and State legislature seats. Most importantly the law protects your privacy (confidentiality) related to your responses to the Census 2000 questionnaire.

To date, the U.S. Census Bureau has held several Census 2000 conferences around Indian Country to partnership with American Indians and Alaska Natives. The purpose? To assist tribal leaders and officials organize their own Census recruitment activities and community awareness programs.

The new millennium’s 22nd Census count comes with promotional information and material specifically designed for Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives including a specially designed logo, slogan and Indian artwork posters as well as other “giveaway” items.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida community partnership includes Recruitment Assistant/ Tribal Liaison Debi Lowe (Onondaga Nation) and Tribal Partnership Specialist Vickie Sellers (Poarch Creek). Both have manned booths at powwows and other community events and utilized Tribal media programs to get the word out that “each and every Seminole Tribal member and Indian and Alaska Native person counts” during the decennial Census 2000. This includes needs and services provided at all levels of government including tribal, local, state and federal.

It is important for tribal communities to understand that the combined statistics (not individual information) are published. Data gathered from completed and returned short or long Census Questionnaires makes sure each person in the household is included or counted for needed services.

Such services and successful plans made by tribal decision-makers and leaders health care, housing, elderly

services, child and family care, education, jobs training, roads improvement, Accurate maps for 911 emergency systems (including law enforcement, fire or medical emergencies, disease control, environmental/catastrophic emergencies, business development and more.

The “Short” Form Questionnaire consists of seven subjects: name, relationship to head of house, sex (male or female), date of birth, Hispanic or Latino, race(s)/Tribe (name), housing unit (rent or own). Five out of six households will receive the short form.

The “Long” Form Questionnaire includes the 7 subjects above plus: marital status, education background, ancestry or ethnicity, language, citizenship, residency history, medical disabilities or other impairments, employment status. Age, military status, income and household information.

No matter which form you receive be sure to answer each question completely. Expect a visit by a census taker to obtain missing information. Check your answers before you seal the self-addressed envelope.

Households, who have not received a questionnaire yet or have inadvertently tossed it away, please contact your local QAC (Questionnaire Assistance Center). QAC’s are setup on the Seminole Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee reservations at the tribal offices. Check with your local tribal office for QAC time schedule. Miccosukee and Creek languages interpreters are available to answer questions.

Seminole Tribal members and community members – including a few non-Indian tribal office workers – are happy to assist with the questionnaire. Please greet them – as they will with you – with courtesy.

Several Seminole Tribal members “census takers” have been trained and have worked hard to complete the first phase or Census operation. This phase included updating tribal addresses and leaving the questionnaire. The Census 2000 operation will continue through April and May. Tribal census takers will continue to update household addresses and complete questionnaires with households in some Seminole communities. Households who do not mail back their completed forms will also be visited in the near future.

The Census 2000 questionnaire is important, safe and easy. Your response is very important. If you have any questions contact your local census office or call Debi Lowe at 954/966-6300 x1473. Remember: generations are counting on this don’t leave it blank.



CENSUS LADY: Debi Lowe holds poster.

## Gator Osceola Wins Poster Contest

**By Benny Secody**  
**EVERGLADES CITY**  
— Gator Osceola, a fifth grade student at Everglades City School and a Tribal member competed against 300 other Collier County students ranging from first through fifth grade and was selected as the winner of a poster contest by a team of professional designers.

The purpose of the contest was to encourage school-aged children to spread the word about the upcoming Census 2000 count. Collier County has initiated a public awareness campaign to educate and encourage residents to fill out and mail back their census forms.

Children are an especially critical element in the overall success of the census count. In the 1990 census, over four million individuals were missed in the U.S., and over half of these were children.

It is vital that everyone comply with the Census count, as Federal funding and local monies are contingent upon the number of people



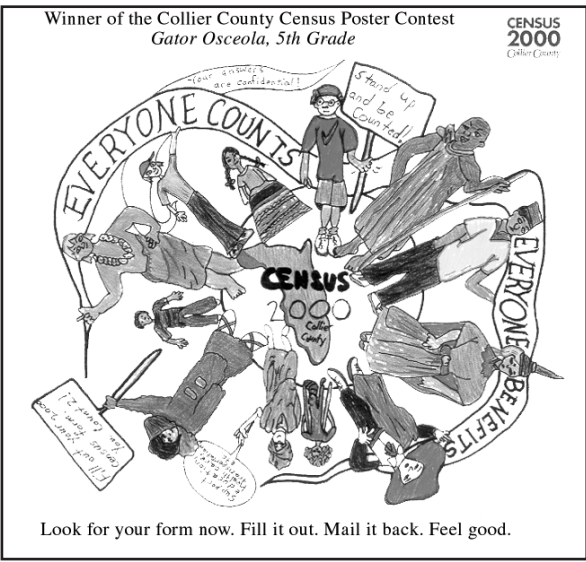
Gator Osceola displays his winning Census 2000 poster.

counted – with children the most integral aspect of our future.

As the first place poster contest winner, Gator was presented with a balloon bouquet, a professionally mounted display of his winning poster and a bag of census goodies. His poster will be reproduced and distributed around the county, as well as be displayed in the *Naples Daily News*.

Gator is taking all of this hoopla in stride, and although pleased by his accomplishment, shyly shrugged off the barrage of compliments bestowed upon him. He states he will continue to develop his artistic skills, but when asked what he wanted to be when he finished school, he replied, “I have no idea!”

Gator is the son of Claudia Osceola, and resides on the Miccosukee Reservation with his three brothers and two sisters.



## Wildfires Spell Trouble For Floridians

Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and hundreds of homes are destroyed by wildfires. Last year, the number of wildfires in Florida prompted Governor Jeb Bush to declare a state of emergency for the entire state.

With rainfall once again below average for this time of year, Allstate Insurance Company recommends the following to protect your family and property from wildfires: Regularly clear roof and gutters of leaves and other debris.

Keep household items handy that can be used as fire tools: a rake, ax, hand or chain saw, bucket and shovel.

Create a defensible zone, remove all dry grass, brush and dead leaves at least 30 feet around your home.

Remove vines from the wall of the home. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures.

Remember that if you are warned that a wildfire is threatening your area, personal safety should always come first. If you have time, shut off gas at meter; turn off pilot lights, close windows, vents and doors. If possible, take your homeowners policy with you.

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# Roberts Ranch Holds Roundup

**By Tommy Benn**  
**IMMOKALEE** — The Roberts family of Immokalee, long time friends of the Seminole, of the Big Cypress and Immokalee communities, held its first annual Roberts Ranch Roundup Saturday, April 1.

The event was held at the "Old Homeplace," home to the Roberts family since 1914 when Robert Roberts brought his wife Sarah and their seven children to Immokalee in oxcart wagons. The property has been turned over to the county as a historical museum.

The Roberts family donated the house and four acres of the ranch where the original building was located in 1996. Recently the county purchased additional acreage adjoining the Homeplace for a reported \$600,000 to bring the future museums site locations to 15 acres.

It will take an estimated five years and approximately \$1 million to complete the project. The museum, headed by Donna Ridgewood, will be going to Tallahassee and applying for a \$30,000 grant to help get things underway. Ridgewood is also the director of the Museum of the Everglades in Everglades City.

The festivities started with a cattle drive and parade with both remaining children of Robert and Sarah Roberts taking part. Chief Jim Billie headlined the musical entertainment.

On the Homeplace property historical reenactors showed the visitors what early Florida life was like. Judge Nelson Bailey shared Florida's cattle history. Florida's 5th Calvary was on hand, led by none other than Teddy Roosevelt himself.

The legendary Swamp Owl and Seminole Cowhunter Jesse Necoletos answered many a question for the youngsters. Ralph West displayed his collection of tools of the Cowhunters trade, which included saddles, spurs, cow whips branding irons, horse and mule bits.

Buddy Taylor of Felda handled the cooking chores of barbecued chicken and beef served with his



**MATRIARCH:** She stood next to a Model T. Or is that a Model A?

local Seminole fairly and were honest with us," said Elaine Aguilar, councilwoman from the Immokalee Reservation. "They always helped us whenever we needed help."

"We traded at the Roberts General Store. We traded alligator and otter pelts for store goods. The older brother Dius ran the store and gave us credit when times were hard. In the days when we had to work the fields picking tomatoes, and peppers, or cut, grade and load watermelon trucks to make a money to feed our families."

In his lifetime Robert Roberts saw his cattle empire grow from a 300-head herd to an estimated 8,000 cattle operation. From the original 60 acre home- stead to a 40,000 acre cattle ranch. The elder Roberts was one of the first county commissioners when Collier County was estab- lished in the late 1920s.

"The county seat was in Everglades City and my father would make the trip from Immokalee and it would take him 3 or 4 days," Bobby Roberts said, recalling many of the old memories. "There were no roads and you never knew from day to day what the woods would be like. If it was rainy and wet you traveled one way. If it was dry it was rainy another. It's a long way to anywhere from Immokalee. "I had hoped they would have a dance to go along with the roundup," added Bobby. "We used to have them. The dance would end at midnight and the boys would fight till daylight."

"We survived the Texas Tick Infestation," he said. "I remember Range Riders killing deer by the thousands. The Seminoles and the U.S. Government almost started the 4th Seminole War over the deer killing."

"The range cattle had to be dipped every six weeks. Range Riders would count the cattle and if they weren't accounted for the rancher was fined by a head count. Then came the God awful screw- worm epidemic. If a cow had an open sore it had to be doctored."

"A cowhunter would carry a can of medicine with a dauber brush and paint the black greasy medicine on the open sore. That's when the cowhunters start- ed carrying ropes on their saddles. We tied our ropes to our saddles — we never dallied off like the team ropers of today do. The days were long and hard, but somehow we survived. I guess you had to be as tough and rough as the country itself."



**An old butt-squeezin' saddle.**



**BIG CHICKEE:** The old Roberts Family house still stands.

world famous Gator Sauce. For the sweet tooth, a cracker delight "sour orange pie" was on hand. Along with Chief Billie and the Raiford Starke and, plenty of bluegrass and old timed gospel was enjoyed by the spectators.

"The Roberts family had always treated the

## George Strait May Come To Okeechobee

**By Tommy Benn**  
**OKEECHOBEE** — Tractor Supply Company is coming to Okeechobee, and perhaps we'll get a surprise visit from country superstar and company spokesman George Strait.

The Nashville Tennessee Company announced it would be taking over the old Wal-Mart Store building at the Northlake Village Shopping Center. Tractor Supply will hold its grand opening June 24.

Okeechobee was selected for the site of the company's latest store because it fits all the require- ment and demands to reach the store chain's varied customer base. The company sells to large full-time and part-time ranchers and farmers as well as week-

end, backyard and hobbyist agriculturists.

The store will carry a full inventory of farm and ranch supplies, feed animal health care products work clothes. It will feature a full lawn and garden supply center and hardware automotive supplies.

Currently there are 270 retail Tractor Supply Stores in 26 states. There are plans to open 10 stores in south and central Florida by mid-summer. Started in 1938 as a mail order tractor parts business, it is the largest owner of retail agricultural stores in the United States.

Corporate spokesperson George Strait may come for the grand opening of the Okeechobee store. Plans are still incomplete at this time.

## Cowboys Begin Rounding Up The Herd

**By T. R. Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — The Seminole cow- boys are back in the saddle again, beginning the annual task of penning the vast herds of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

From the Pahokee prairies around Lake Okeechobee to the marsh wetlands of the Big Cypress swamp, the cattle will be brought to the cowpens, worked then turned out until sale time late April or early May.

The annual round-up, which started the first week in March, should take about two months from start to finish, allowing for a few badly needed rain days.

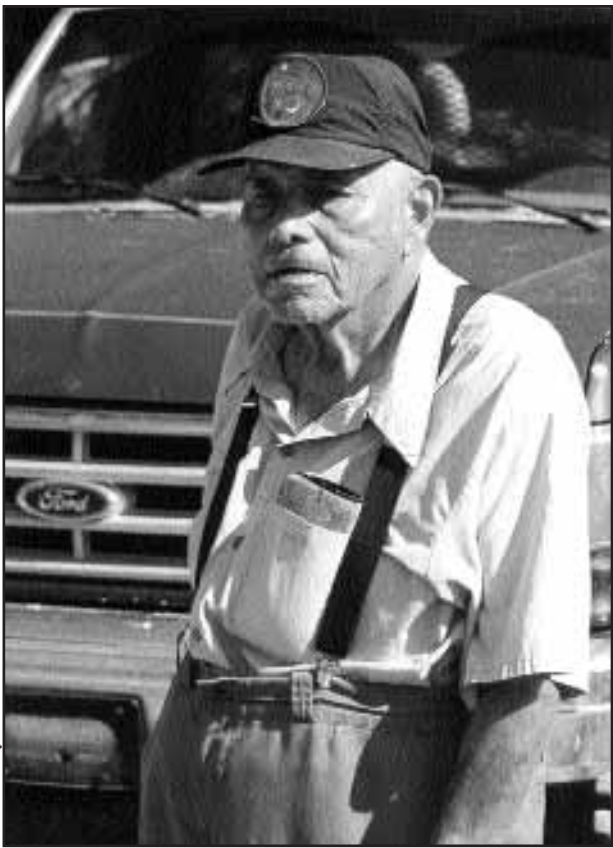
During the gathering, cowboys work from daylight to dark because Murphy's Law is sure to come in to play: what can go wrong, will.

From broken hydraulic hoses, and branding pots, squeeze chutes that can't be moved because the wheel spindles have worked off, fences that were all right yesterday somehow are down today. It's a never-ending battle between the cow crews and Mother Nature and time.

At the Brighton Reservation, 40 some cattle owners covering 35,000 acres and 4,500 head of brood cows will be handled this year by Scott "Cotton" Baxley.

Paul Bowers will act as cow boss for the Big Cypress cattle owners until the position is filled by a permanent man to replace Jonah Cypress, who retired earlier this year. The 30 cattle owners, with their combined 2,900 head of brood cows on the Big Cypress' 40,000 acre reservation, hope to finish a little earlier than the Brighton cow crew.

Dr. Kenneth Keen of the Clewiston Animal Clinic will again vaccinate the heifer calves for Brucellosis, and bleed the cows and bulls for recerti-



**Original Brighton cattleman Tom Bowers.**

fication of the owner's herds. This is the 14th year Keen has worked the Seminole herd.

The cow crew's responsibility is to vacci- nate for Vibrio-Lepto-Tric — either a 4-way or 8- way vaccine, worm delouse and dehorn each animal.

Dr. Keen will work one herd in Brighton for "Cotton Baxley" in the morning then travel to Big Cypress and works the cat- tle penned there in the afternoon. Paul Bowers and his cow crew say it takes for a long hard day.

Gary Raulerson and his crew have started working the cattle on the Miccosukee Land Lease that houses some 3,000 brood cows on the 10,000-acre lease. Raulerson will then move his crew to the Parker Island Lease and assist cattle foreman Jerry Skates in work- ing the 1,500 brood cows there on the 4,000- acre lease.

Doctors Debbie or Dennis Van Rokel, a husband and wife team of veterinar- ians from Alva, will certify the Board Cattle operations.

After the cattle have been worked, the Tribe will ready for the annual production sale. The sale has been scheduled for the last of April or May with a delivery date of July or August.

Proper fertilizing and mowing of pastures help in keeping the stock cattle in good flesh, which means good health. The calves that come from both the board and individual Seminole owned herds are some of the best calves shipped in the Nation.

With the livestock market prices very strong at this date, producers are looking forward to a banner year at the annual Spring sale.



**TRUSTY STEED:** Paul Bowers cares for his horse.

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## Florida AIM Attacks Parade

**TALLAHASSEE** — On April 1, approximately 40 Florida AIM members and supporters from AIM Support Groups in St. Petersburg, West Palm Beach, Tallahassee and Fort Lauderdale and others protested the racist parade of genociders known as “Springtime Tallahassee.”

While local “Springtime” organizers have claimed to be making efforts to remove Andrew Jackson, he remained in the parade. And new efforts to glorify Indian killers were spotted throughout the parade with floats honoring the conquistadors, U.S. Cavalry and Roughriders; even the Buffalo Soldiers were added to honor the genocidal assaults on Indian people.

Florida AIM, after protesting non-disruptively for three years, began the escalation of its efforts to halt this genocidal glorification ceremony when the Florida AIM State Executive Director Sheridan Murphy went into the street to confront the “Andrew Jackson.”

He was joined by nine Florida AIM and AIM Support Group members — North Florida Regional AIM Director David Narcomey, St. Augustine AIM member Bruce Felton, St. Augustine AIM Director Michelle Davis, State AIM Security Director George Garcia, Gainesville AIM Support Group Member Barbara Howe, West Palm Beach Support Group Coordinator Maria Zwicker, Red

Florida Support Group Coordinator Tom Scott, Tallahassee support group member Roy Saunders, and St. Petersburg Support Group coordinator Rebecca Johns.

Murphy then threw a blood on the street and managed to cover “Andrew Jackson” in blood forcing him off the parade route. Florida AIM Security intervened during the brief detention of Sheridan Murphy by Leon County Sheriff’s deputies and it was later decided not to arrest Murphy or any of the other protestors.

Florida AIM will continue to offer the dialogue of cooperation to the “Springtime Tallahassee” officials who should make no mistake, Florida AIM is fully prepared for the rhetoric and actuality of confrontation.

It is our vow that the “Springtime Tallahassee” parade must change now, or die. We will continue to escalate our efforts to force the removal of Andrew Jackson, the Buffalo Soldiers and all other glorifications of the murderers of Indian peoples. This year 10 AIM members and SG members stood in the street and one threw blood on one of the many potential targets glorifying the genocide of Indian people

Next year we will miss no target and spare no effort to stop this heinous parade.

— *Florida AIM News Wire.*

## DNC Appoints Native American Affairs Director

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Democratic National Committee (DNC) National Chair Joe Andrew today announced the appointment of Holly Cook as Director of Native American Affairs. Cook comes to the DNC from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and Holland & Knight, a Washington, D.C., law firm.

“We are excited to have Holly Cook join our team as our new Director of Native American Affairs,” said Joe Andrew. “Her experience with working on issues of concern to Indian Country will help spread our progressive democratic message for America throughout the country.”

Holly Cook served as Director of Federal Relations for the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians and a Senior Consultant for Native American Affairs at the Holland Knight Law Firm. Prior to that, Cook served in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Cook was also an instructor at Leech Lake Tribal College, Leech Lake Reservation.

“Holly will be an asset to the

Democratic Party as we continue to reach out to Indian Country,” added Andrew. “The Democratic National Committee is fortunate to have someone with Holly’s skill and experience,” said Andrew.

A member of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indian in northern Minnesota, Cook received a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, ND and MBA from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, MN.

The mission of the Native American Affairs office at the Democratic National Committee is to increase the participation and representation of Native Americans in the Democratic Party and the political system. It also strives to elect Democrats to all levels of office, offer training in Indian issues, and increase the knowledge of American Indians about the Democratic Party through training and programs.

The Director of Native American Affairs provides outreach, education, and advocacy on issues that affect Native Americans.

## 7th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference

Deadline for applications are June 9, 2000. Due to the limit of participants, when you register for the 7th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference, you must commit yourself to participate for the duration of the conference.

Those who are active in support groups, or have participated in treatment centers, or who are pursuing a healthier drug and alcohol free lifestyle will have

first priority if registration exceeds the limit. It is the Conference Attendee’s responsibility to make the proper arrangements with your supervisor concerning your absence from work. A letter of notification will be sent to confirm that you are a participant in this year’s conference. Lack of participation will result in a letter to your supervisor.

For an application please con-

tact: **Hollywood:** Ralph Billie at 954-9652-2009; **Brighton:** Michele Thomas or Rita Gopher at 863-763-4128; **Big Cypress:** Glen Osceola at 863-983-4141 or Helene Buster at 863-983-5151; **Immokalee:** Billie Broadway at 941-657-6567; **Tampa:** Tom Ryan at 813-621-2811; **Fort Pierce:** Sally Tommie at 954-967-3700; and **Miccosukee:** Andy Buster at 305-223-8380.

### Gator

Continued from page 1

Kenyon were threatened with possible arrest, and Big Al with a tranquilizer gun, by the Port Authority Police Department (PAPD) if the duct tape was removed from the gator’s mouth or if J. R. or Gator John attempted any “wrestling” demonstrations.

The police even threatened Big Al with a tranquilizer gun. Maybe they heard about Chief Jim Billie getting his finger bitten off, recently, by a gator.

Later the cops liked posing with the unarmed reptile.

While professional gator handlers were not allowed to do their show, the police had no problem with people sitting on and posing with Big Al, who could have, but never did swat anyone with his massive tail.

An extended “safe-zone” of 35 feet with six armed and ready cops nearby allowed the handlers to sit on the gator before a handful of passing-by passengers and lots of Delta employees. Also there for the photo-taking session were Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Billy L. Cypress (dressed in traditional clothing as Chief Jumper) and Florida Seminole Tourism Director Lee Tiger. Someone also brought over a pair of

giant sunglasses as a prop.

“One of the cops showed up with a pole and a noose at the end, just in case the alligator ran away,” stated Tiger who referred to the PAPD as “city slickers.”

Why bring a Big Cypress gator all the way to New York City to sleep in a crate overnight and spend a couple hours in an airplane lobby with a taped up mouth and people sitting on him?

Someone dropped the ball. “It wasn’t us,” said Lucy Evanicki, the Billie Swamp Safari marketing director who arranged for the gator and made sure all the necessary permits were in hand to transport the gator from Florida. “We had our act together. But we had no control over what happened at their end.”

According to PAPD Officer Jerry O’Brien, the event could have been staged without incident had his department known in advance and precautions been agreed to and implemented.

Notification to local authorities of staged events at the airport is the responsibility of the hosting organization — in this case Delta Airlines.

Seminole Tourism and the Tribe did get some publicity out of the event. Local print and television media were on hand in Fort Lauderdale as Big Al was placed on the plane for the trip to New

York. The gator also drew a lot of notice from fellow travelers.

“Word kind of spread like wild-fire that there was a special passenger here today,” stated Chuck Malkus, of IMS Public Relations, hired by Tiger to coordinate the event with Delta and the CVB.

The “wild fire” never burned hot enough for the press in the largest media town in the world to feel the heat, however.

“Most of the passengers’ biggest concern was that we were traveling at lunchtime, and did the alligator get fed before he boarded?” added Malkus. This was a good question since Delta Express is a no-frills flight — meaning no food on board. Big Al, however, was fine. As a Billie Swamp Safari gator he was well fed and cared for. He was the only passenger on board with a full stomach.

Big Al also had more leg room than his fellow passengers. One hundred-nineteen seats — and one bathroom — are crammed into the Boeing 737-200 plane.

Today, Big Al is back wallowing in the gator pit next to the Swamp Water Café at Billie Swamp Safari. “I’d say his flyin’ days are over,” said Gator John. “He don’t care about New York City.”

### Betty

Continued from page 1

Scherley Busch, a noted photographer, said Betty was photographed beneath the Council Oak, a large oak tree on the Hollywood Reservation, because it reveals Betty’s background.

As a young woman Betty recalls traveling Miccosukee, Creek and English for the elders as they met under the Council Oak to organize the Seminole Tribe in the late 1950s.

Noted Miami historian Arva Moore Parks McCabe, whose photograph is also included in the exhibit, said Betty is a woman who has made a large contribution to the history of Florida.

“It was about time,” said Parks about Betty’s recognition. “She [Betty] has done so much for her people and contributed to their development that she

is an inspiration to all of us.”

Betty Mae, who was the first female elected chairman — or chief — of a major Indian Tribe, helped advance the medical care of her people. She has authored two books, was the first editor of the Tribal newspaper and appointed by President Richard Nixon to a term on the National Indian Council. Betty has also been named ‘Woman of the Year’ by the Jewish Defense League, ‘Pioneer Woman’ by the city of Dania, and inducted in the Florida Hall of Fame.

About her many achievements, Betty humbly expressed that her source of inspiration has always been her Tribe. To other women striving to achieve their goals, Betty said there is no mystery to it. She said that anyone with determination can make things happen.

“Any woman can do it,” Betty asserted. “It’s just a matter of determination. If you set a goal and work towards

it, you can achieve wonderful things. That’s the message for young people. Set a goal and work towards it.”

This year, Edith Osman, the current president of the Florida Bar Association and the second woman in the Bar’s 49-year history to hold the position, was also included in the exhibit.

The photographic documentary features women like international superstar and Grammy award winning recording artist Gloria Estefan, the late environmental advocate Marjory Stoneman Douglas, record braking tennis champion Chris Evert and Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen among the other women who have been honored.

The exhibition runs through May 1. It is open to the public at no charge. For more information call Ms. Busch at (305) 661-8018.



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# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday



**Happy 40th Birthday, Mom (Barbara Osceola Butera).** What more can I say about the light of my life, other than you are my mother and my best friend. Ever since I can remember you have been so caring and thoughtful not only to me, but to everybody else.

The other of us have been through thick and thin together, but yet we are ready to meet any other challenge that may rise. I am so fortunate to have a mother I can count on and run to for whatever the case may be, whether it be good or bad. Thanks for being a wonderful mentor for me and for caring for me.

I want this birthday to be the best it can be for you, because you deserve it. I love you, Mom! From your daughter, **Ciara Billie**.



**New arrival: Trinity Andra Beth Bowers** born Jan. 28, 2000 at 1 p.m. Trinity weighed 7 lbs., 13 oz. and was 19 ½ inches long. Congratulations **Elrod Bowers** and **Holly Tiger**.

## Congratulations

**Congratulations! Morningstar Webster.** I read *The Seminole Tribune* and saw your score for Beginners Barrel Racing. I am so proud of you and **Danielle** also. Hugs and kisses to you both. Daddy loves you both very much. Keep up the good work. I will keep reading the newspaper to watch for your picture and your scores. Hugs and kisses: Daddy, **Daniel Webster Sr.**

The Seminole Tribe of Florida's Department of Education would like to congratulate Hollywood GED graduate, **Olivia Cypress**. Olivia received her GED on March 17, 2000. She is now employed with the Travel Department.

The Hollywood GED program is located at the DSO building. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you are interested in getting your GED, contact Wendy Green at 954-989-6840, ext 101.

## Deadlines

### Seminole Tribune

May 5, Issue • Deadline April 21  
May 16, Issue • Deadline May 12  
June 16, Issue • Deadline June 2

## Notices

### Health Notice

Attention Diabetic Patients:

Rezulin, a drug used by diabetics has been taken off the market due to its effects on the liver.

All diabetic patients are advised to stop taking this drug and contact your medical doctor/Seminole Health Department immediately.

Patients previously taking Rezulin will be placed on a different drug/medication.

— *The Seminole Health Department.*

**Car & Boat Auction** — April 2, at 9 a.m. By the Salv Auction, next ones will be May 20, June 17 and July 29. For more information call 954-463-3725.

**Wolf's Flat EOD Conference** — July 23 — 26, at the Round Up Centre in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. First Nations coming together Sharing Experience To Clean Up Indigenous Lands. To register: by phone; 1-888-341-1011 or 1-403-269-1011, by e-mail; tamgrp@cadvision.com, by fax at 1-403-269-1438, by mail to Wolf's Flat Ordinance Disposal Corp, c/o Suite 600, 808-4th Ave. S.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P3E8.

**Bunny Breakfast & Train Ride** — April 15 & April 22 — Family event includes Meet the Bunny, travel by train to Deerfield Beach and receive a souvenir gift, 7:15 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. For info call 954-921-3404, adults \$13, children \$11.

**23rd Annual Lifesaving Competition** — April 21 — April 23. Contact Jim Shoemaker at 954-921-3423.

**Kuumba Festival 2000** — Sat., April 22 — 9:00 a.m. — 7:00 p.m. at Young Circle Park. Free. Call 921-3404 or Lamar Davis at 954-921-3447.

**Arbor Day Tree Give-Away** — Sat., April 29. Free trees to Hollywood residents with driver's license & water bill. At Young Circle Park. Contact Grances Nip at Public Works 954-967-4567.

**Hollywood Medical Center May Day 5K Run** — Sun., April 30 at 7:30 a.m.. Contact Peter Mercer at 954-985-6241.

**Food Handler Certification Training and Exam** — April 19, 2000. Class begins at 9:00 a.m., exam to follow at 2:00 p.m., registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. To register contact Joan Tavalara at 954-370-3725, ext. 234.

**6th Annual Running The Red Road** — Sat., May 13, 2000. A tradition in San Diego as a community-wide event combining Native American cultural awareness and physical activity into a day of fun for the entire family. Featuring a 10K, 5K Fun Run/Walk and 1K Children's run. For info contact Lucinda at 619-641-2377.

**23rd Annual Indian Education Pow Wow** — Sat., May 13, 2000, "Honoring Our Elders" at Hoover High school, San Diego, CA. There is no admission charge, please bring your own chair. Call 858-627-7362 for more information.

**The Tribal Constitutional Symposium** — May 14 — 17, 2000 in

Phoenix, AZ. "Laying the Cornerstone for Strong Nations" As tribal leaders and tribal government officials, you are charged with the task of building and maintaining a strong nation — a nation worthy of respect from its own citizens and form other governments. This session will examine all aspects of developing, adopting, amending, and enforcing a tribal constitution. Call 1-800-992-4489 for brochure or information.

**12th Annual San Diego American Culture Days** — Sat., May 20 and Sun., May 21, 2000. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., both days, in San Diego's Balboa Park on the corner of Park Blvd. and Presidents Way. Call 619-281-5964 for more information.

**Skullyville Commemorative Trail of Tears Walk** — April 29, 2000. To commemorate the paths of those who first arrived in Indian Territory along the Trail of Tears. For more information, please call 580-924-8280 extension 2132.

**Gathering of Nations Pow Wow** — April 27 — 29, 2000 at the Pit in Albuquerque, NM. For tickets and info call 505-836-2810 or visit [www.gatheringofnations.org](http://www.gatheringofnations.org).

**Native American Language Services** — Train your own Tribal Language Specialist. For any Native American Language, contact or order from Dr. Julian Granberry at 800-484-8445 (Pin #5794). E-mail: [nalserv@svic.net](mailto:nalserv@svic.net).

**FREE "How To" Car Care Classes** — April 29, at 10 a.m. and April 30, at noon. Each class will run two hours and feature hands-on demonstration. To be held at Discount Auto Parts at 1511 S. State Road 7, Hollywood and 12120 S.W. 117th Aven., Kendall.

**Culture-Based Curriculum Development Workshop** — July 10-13, 2000 in Warm Spring, Oregon. Sponsored by American Indian Institute, Norman, OK. Visit us on the web at: [www.occe.ou.edu/aai](http://www.occe.ou.edu/aai). Make you reservations no later than June 10. To register call 405-325-2248 or 800-522-0772, ext. 2248, fax: 405-325-7164. For additional workshop information call 405-325-4127.

**Third Annual Toombsboro Inter-tribal Pow Wow** — September 7 — 10 in Toombsboro, Georgia. Contact Jerry Lang at 912-377-8621.

**Stretch & Sculpt Class** — Every Friday from 9:30 to 10:15 a.m., held at the Hollywood Recreation Center. Please call Toni at 962-2009.

**7th Annual Seminole Wellness Conference** — July 17 — 21, 2000 at the Marco Island Hilton. Deadline for applications are June 9, 2000. Contact your health centers for more information and applications.

**Spring Break for Preschool Programs** will be April 17 — 21. The center will be opened only for parents who are working, in a two parent home both parents must be working. A form for Spring Break must be filled out before your child/children can attend. Forms can be picked up from the Parent Involvement Aide. Deadline for forms to be turned in is Friday, April 14, 200. (No exception!) Regular school will resume on Monday, April 24th. Questions call 797-1441, ext. 1105.

## Job Announcements

**Position:** Survey Party Chief  
**Location:** Water Resource Management  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** Jan. 27, 00  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$14.03 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Staff Nutritionist  
**Location:** Health Department  
Brighton  
**Opening:** February 2, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$30,000/Yearly (Negotiable) Plus Benefits

**Position:** Maintenance Worker  
**Location:** Building and Grounds  
Brighton  
**Opening:** February 24, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$6.50 Per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Operator Maintenance  
**Location:** Trainee  
Utilities — Hollywood  
**Opening:** February 23, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$8.00 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Dental Assistant  
**Location:** Health (Hollywood)  
**Opening:** Feb. 11, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$10.00 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Assistant Cook/Janitor  
**Location:** Nutrition (Hot Meals)  
Hollywood  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Assistant Education  
**Location:** Counselor  
Education (Big Cypress)  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$7.18 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Certified Behavioral  
**Location:** Analyst (LaBelle)  
Health (Big Cypress)  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$25,000 — 35,000 annually plus benefits

**Position:** Direct Care Aides  
**Location:** (5 needed in LaBelle)  
Health Department  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$10.00 — 15.00 per hour full time

**Position:** Alternative High School  
**Location:** Teacher in Math and Science  
Ahfachkee School  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** January 25, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Based on salary schedule

**Position:** Assistant Cook (Brighton)  
**Location:** Preschool Program  
**Opening:** February 9, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$8.29 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Speech Language  
**Location:** Therapist  
Ahfachkee School  
**Opening:** February 22, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Based on Instructional Salary Scale

**Position:** Reading Specialist  
**Location:** Ahfachkee School  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** January 12, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Instructional salary scale plus benefits

**Position:** Transporter  
**Location:** Health (Big Cypress)  
**Opening:** January 11, 2000  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** \$7.90 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Teacher Aide II — 2 need/1  
**Location:** year olds & infants  
Education Preschool  
Hollywood  
**Opening:** February 29, 2000  
**Closing:** March 14, 2000  
**Salary:** \$8.73 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Maintenance Supervisor  
**Location:** Buildings and Grounds  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** March 8, 2000  
**Closing:** March 22, 2000  
**Salary:** \$8.00 per hour plus benefits

**Position:** Classroom Teacher  
**Location:** Ahfachkee School  
Big Cypress  
**Opening:** November 22, 1999  
**Closing:** Until Filled  
**Salary:** Negotiable (Instructional Salary Schedule)

**Position:** Background Investigator  
**Location:** Hollywood  
**Opening:** March 31, 2000  
**Closing:** April 14, 2000  
**Salary:** \$9.00 per hour plus benefits

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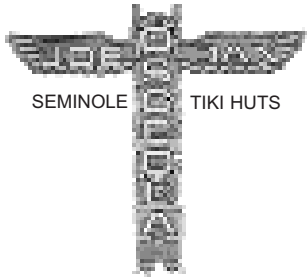
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# Diabetes Program Screens Over 200

**By Dan McDonald**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Over 200 Tribal members received diabetes screenings the last week of March as part of the American Diabetes Alert program sponsored by the American Diabetes Association.

Physician's assistant Susanne Davis, the Tribe's diabetes coordinator, and Toni Taglione, the Hollywood and Big Cypress health educator, conducted the tests at several sites on the Hollywood Reservation on March 28. "The response was real good," Susanne said of the 70 tests the pair performed on that day alone. "The word is really getting out on diabetes and how important it is that people in high risk categories have their blood tested."

"It's important that people get tested. Diabetes can be controlled if it's discovered. And, if you take the proper treatment, many of the more serious complications can be avoided or minimized."

According to the ADA, diabetes is called the silent killer. It is estimated that 16 million people have diabetes, but that one out of every three victims is unaware that their body is having trouble manufacturing and using sugar normally. Every minute, at least one person is diagnosed with diabetes. You are at higher risk if:

\*You are age 45 and older.

\*Member of a high-risk ethnic group, including African American, Hispanic/Latino, American Indian, Asian American or Pacific Islander.  
\*You are overweight.  
\*You have high blood pressure.

says. "But there are some warning signs a person can watch for, including extreme thirst, frequent urination and unexplained weight loss. "The Health Department is doing everything we can to make sure that



Suzanne Davis, and Toni Taglione (l-r) test Joel Frank and Virginia Mitchell in office lobby.

\*You have a family history of diabetes.  
\*You have a history of diabetes during pregnancy or you are a woman who has had a baby weighing more than 9 pounds at birth.  
"Often people can have diabetes for years without realizing it," Suzanne

everyone gets the message to have their blood checked. It's important that everyone get tested, especially if they're in the high risk category." For more information, contact Susanne Davis at (954) 962-2009.

## HUMOR

# Dear Raiford Starke:

Well, here I am, Raiford Starke and I'm in the dog house. My girlfriend Lowella is screaming at me to clear the hallways in our house. You see, there are these large bags of U.S. Mail everywhere and I admit, I've been a little lax in answering my fan mail. So here goes:

**Dear Raiford:**  
Why do you wear that big, black hat?  
**June Tiger Hollywood**

*Truth is, It's to hide those beautiful golden locks of blond hair that grow all over the top of my head that chicks go crazy over. Especially the German ones. It just became too much for my Lowella, who became rather uncomfortable with all the extra female attention I was getting. So to appease her and keep all womankind under control, I leave my hat on!*

**Dear Raiford:**  
So really, why do you wear that big, black hat?  
**Rhonda Roff Boca Raton**

*Gosh, my fans just won't let that one go, will they? You really want to know the truth? Well, okay, now that you've asked me, here goes: It's really to make me appear taller, and by golly, it works! You see, I'm really only five feet, two inches tall. . .*

**Dear Raiford:**  
So what's your take on the whole Elian controversy?  
**Ray Beccera Hialeah**

*Controversy? I didn't know there was a controversy, but now that you've asked me, here goes: To tell you the truth, I OD'd on this Elian stuff a long time ago. I mean, look at the pattern here: First you have Elian, then you got yer Elian II and so on. I mean, can anyone stop this thing, and what else has Sigourney Weaver really done in the last 20 years?*

**Dear Raiford:**  
You seem to be a bit disturbed. Were you abused as a child?  
**Pat Wickman Big Cypress**  
*Well now, that seems to be a rather personal question, but now that you've asked me, here goes: I don't have any memory of any real abuse as a child. I mean, we grew up right next door to a radioactive waste dump just on the edge of Starkansaw, because my*



*daddy Alcatraz Starke believed in having a nuclear family. So, I don't believe I've suffered any abuse in this life, but previous lives are a different story. I remember one day I was sitting on a park bench, checking out the college basketball scores in the sports page, when I looked up and saw this sign by the lake that said, "Warning: Please don't feed or molest the alligators." That right there must have triggered one of those "past life regressions," for when I went to sleep that night, I had this strange dream that I was an alligator in a previous life — one of them Florida 'gators, and I must have been in ancient Greece because I was being molested by Spartans!*

# DVA Searching For Agent Orange Victims

**HOLLYWOOD** — Stephen D. Bowers says that the Department of Veterans Affairs is looking for veterans who may have been exposed to Agent Orange, a herbicide used in Vietnam. According to DVA:  
\*An estimated 3.1 million veterans served in the Southeast Asia Theater (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand, and sailors in the South China Sea).  
\*An estimated 2.6 million personnel served within the borders of South Vietnam and in adjacent waters.  
Agent Orange was a herbicide used in Vietnam to defoliate trees and remove cover for the enemy. Agent Orange spraying missions were flown in Vietnam between January 1965 and April 1970. Shipped in orange-striped barrels, it was a reddish-brown liquid containing four herbicides: 2, 4, 5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4, 5-T), 2, 4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid (2, 4-D), cacodylic acid and picloram.  
The 2, 4, 5-T was contaminated in the manufacturing process with dioxin. Several herbicides were sprayed in Vietnam at different times — during different years as well as

during different seasons because of the variety of vegetation and environmental conditions. The history of herbicides for military use dates to World War II. During the early part of the war, interest arose in chemicals that could be used for crop destruction. Two chemicals were developed as a result of those early efforts — 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T. Although neither chemical was used in World War II, the value of their use in weed and brush programs was recognized, and both chemicals have been used widely throughout the world since the 1940s by farmers, foresters and homeowners. The VA has offered special access to health services and studies since 1978, when it initiated a medical surveillance program for Vietnam veterans with health concerns. By 1981, VA offered priority medical care to Vietnam veterans with any health problems which may have resulted from Agent Orange exposure. That program continues today. If you feel you may have been exposed to Agent Orange, or have any questions, please call Stephen Bowers, (954) 966-6300, ext. 1480.

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# Have You Filled Out The Census Form? Debi Lowe Is Counting On You

**By Debi Lowe**  
April 1, 2000 was National Census Day. Have you been counted?  
Since 1790, in accordance with the U.S. Constitution mandate, the Census or “count of every person in the U.S. living in a particular household” has been performed every 10 years.  
Today, accurate census information ensures billions of federal monies are distributed properly. Also, population numbers determine congressional representation and State legislature seats. Most importantly the law protects your privacy (confidentiality) related to your responses to the Census 2000 questionnaire.

To date, the U.S. Census Bureau has held several Census 2000 conferences around Indian Country to partnership with American Indians and Alaska Natives. The purpose? To assist tribal leaders and officials organize their own Census recruitment activities and community awareness programs.

The new millennium’s 22nd Census count comes with promotional information and material specifically designed for Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives including a specially designed logo, slogan and Indian artwork posters as well as other “giveaway” items.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida community partnership includes Recruitment Assistant/ Tribal Liaison Debi Lowe (Onondaga Nation) and Tribal Partnership Specialist Vickey Sellers (Poarch Creek). Both have manned booths at powwows and other community events and utilized Tribal media programs to get the word out that “each and every Seminole Tribal member and Indian and Alaska Native person counts” during the decennial Census 2000. This includes needs and services provided at all levels of government including tribal, local, state and federal.

It is important for tribal communities to understand that the combined statistics (not individual information) are published. Data gathered from completed and returned short or long Census Questionnaires makes sure each person in the household is included or counted for needed services.

Such services and successful plans made by tribal decision-makers and leaders health care, housing, elderly

services, child and family care, education, jobs training, roads improvement, Accurate maps for 911 emergency systems (including law enforcement, fire or medical emergencies, disease control, environmental/catastrophic emergencies, business development and more.

The “Short” Form Questionnaire consists of seven subjects: name, relationship to head of house, sex (male or female), date of birth, Hispanic or Latino, race(s)/Tribe (name), housing unit (rent or own). Five out of six households will receive the short form.

The “Long” Form Questionnaire includes the 7 subjects above plus: marital status, education background, ancestry or ethnicity, language, citizenship, residency history, medical disabilities or other impairments, employment status. Age, military status, income and household information.

No matter which form you receive be sure to answer each question completely. Expect a visit by a census taker to obtain missing information. Check your answers before you seal the self-addressed envelope.

Households, who have not received a questionnaire yet or have inadvertently tossed it away, please contact your local QAC (Questionnaire Assistance Center). QAC’s are setup on the Seminole Brighton, Hollywood and Immokalee reservations at the tribal offices. Check with your local tribal office for QAC time schedule. Miccosukee and Creek languages interpreters are available to answer questions.

Seminole Tribal members and community members – including a few non-Indian tribal office workers – are happy to assist with the questionnaire. Please greet them – as they will with you – with courtesy.

Several Seminole Tribal members “census takers” have been trained and have worked hard to complete the first phase or Census operation. This phase included updating tribal addresses and leaving the questionnaire. The Census 2000 operation will continue through April and May. Tribal census takers will continue to update household addresses and complete questionnaires with households in some Seminole communities. Households who do not mail back their completed forms will also be visited in the near future.

The Census 2000 questionnaire is important, safe and easy. Your response is very important. If you have any questions contact your local census office or call Debi Lowe at 954/966-6300 x1473. Remember: generations are counting on this don’t leave it blank.



CENSUS LADY: Debi Lowe holds poster.

## Gator Osceola Wins Poster Contest

**By Benny Secody**  
**EVERGLADES CITY**  
— Gator Osceola, a fifth grade student at Everglades City School and a Tribal member competed against 300 other Collier County students ranging from first through fifth grade and was selected as the winner of a poster contest by a team of professional designers.

The purpose of the contest was to encourage school-aged children to spread the word about the upcoming Census 2000 count. Collier County has initiated a public awareness campaign to educate and encourage residents to fill out and mail back their census forms.

Children are an especially critical element in the overall success of the census count. In the 1990 census, over four million individuals were missed in the U.S., and over half of these were children.

It is vital that everyone comply with the Census count, as Federal funding and local monies are contingent upon the number of people



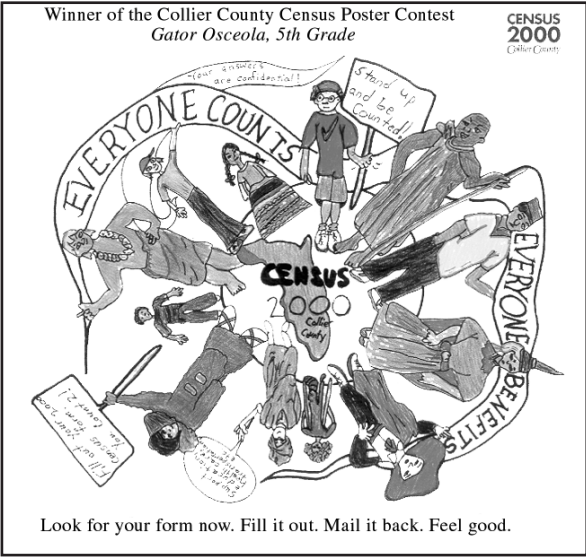
Gator Osceola displays his winning Census 2000 poster.

counted – with children the most integral aspect of our future.

As the first place poster contest winner, Gator was presented with a balloon bouquet, a professionally mounted display of his winning poster and a bag of census goodies. His poster will be reproduced and distributed around the county, as well as be displayed in the *Naples Daily News*.

Gator is taking all of this hoopla in stride, and although pleased by his accomplishment, shyly shrugged off the barrage of compliments bestowed upon him. He states he will continue to develop his artistic skills, but when asked what he wanted to be when he finished school, he replied, “I have no idea!”

Gator is the son of Claudia Osceola, and resides on the Miccosukee Reservation with his three brothers and two sisters.



## Wildfires Spell Trouble For Floridians

Each year, thousands of acres of wildland and hundreds of homes are destroyed by wildfires. Last year, the number of wildfires in Florida prompted Governor Jeb Bush to declare a state of emergency for the entire state.

With rainfall once again below average for this time of year, Allstate Insurance Company recommends the following to protect your family and property from wildfires: Regularly clear roof and gutters of leaves and other debris. Keep household items handy that can be used as fire tools: a rake, ax, hand or chain saw, bucket and shovel.

Create a defensible zone, remove all dry grass, brush and dead leaves at least 30 feet around your home. Remove vines from the wall of the home. Remove leaves and rubbish from under structures.

Remember that if you are warned that a wildfire is threatening your area, personal safety should always come first. If you have time, shut off gas at meter; turn off pilot lights, close windows, vents and doors. If possible, take your homeowners policy with you.

## Darlene T. Quinn



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Clothing competition: Young women's modern traditional.

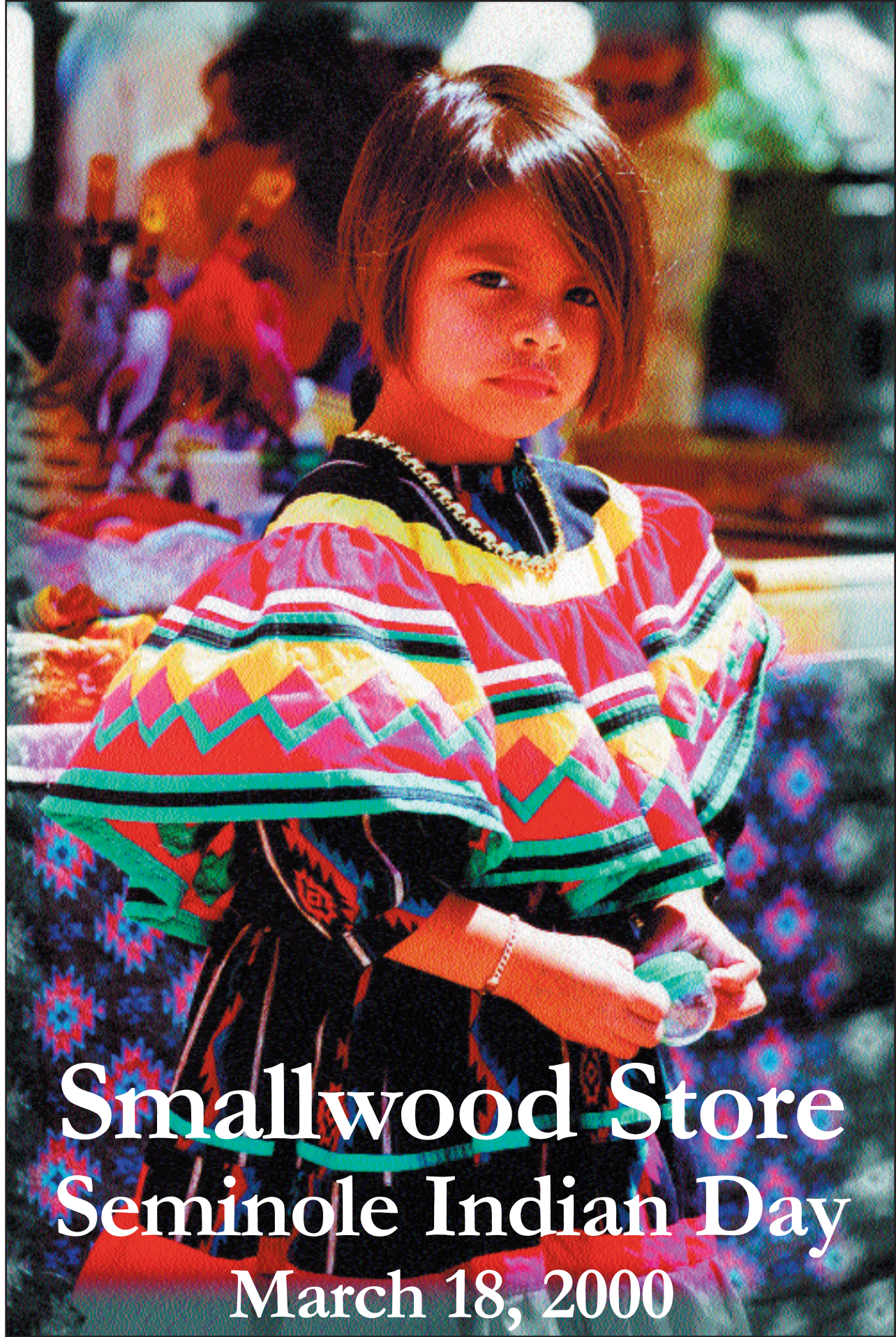


Clothing competition: Women's modern traditional.



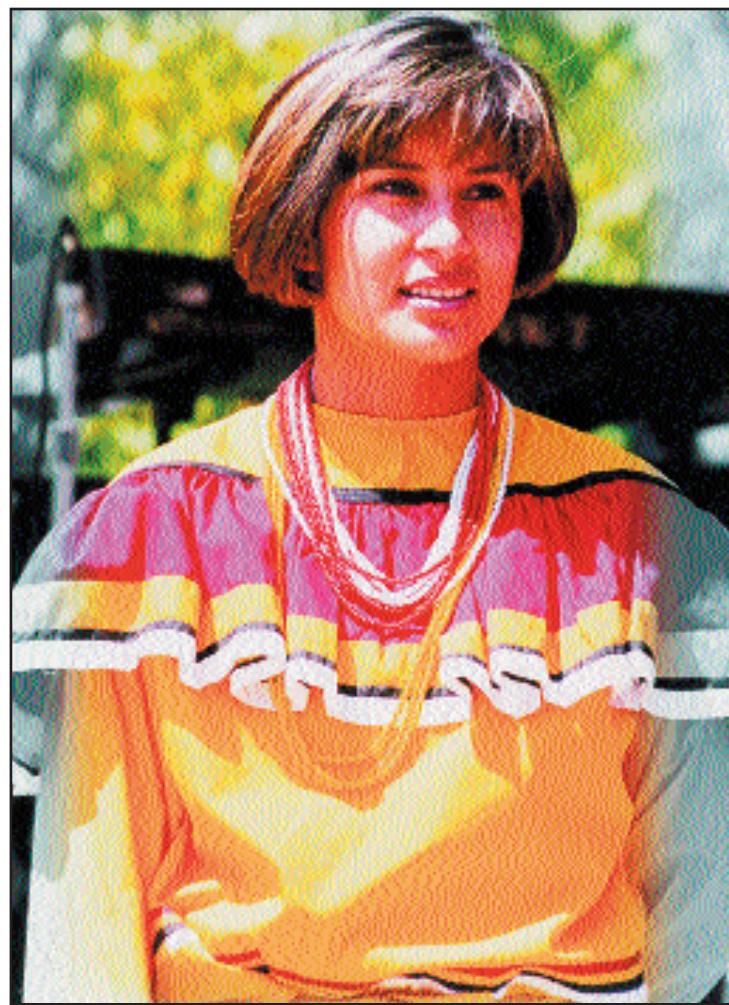
Clothing competition: Boy's modern traditional.

Photos by: Bob Kippenberger and Peter B. Gallagher



# Smallwood Store Seminole Indian Day March 18, 2000

Joslyn Cypress



Lesley Billie



Mary Frances Fewell Cypress



Melissa Buster



Clothing competition: Toddler's modern traditional.



Darion Osceola with her great grandfather Pete Osceola Sr.