

Heritage Festival, page 4.



Seminole challenge Miami Dolphins, page 9.



Tamiami Trail Blazers: 1920s Reflections, page 3.



Kissimmee Slough, page 16.



The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

50¢

www.seminoletribe.com

Volume XXI Number 2

February 11, 2000

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
Paid
Lake Placid FL
Permit No. 128

Welcome To The Tribal Fair!

HOLLYWOOD – The Seminole Tribe of Florida welcomes American Indian dancers, performers and artisans from more than 100 tribes across the Americas to the largest native event in South Florida – the 29th annual Seminole Tribal Fair, as always on the second weekend of February.

This year’s program marks the first fair of the new millennium and a return of the traditional competition American Indian powwow to a lineup of native fun and entertainment, Feb. 10-13, at the Okalee Museum Tribal Fairgrounds, the northwest corner of State Road 7 and Stirling Road on the Hollywood Seminole Indian Reservation.

Tribal Fair director Buster Baxley offers a grand entertainment lineup for this year’s event which includes NAMMY Award Winner Chief Jim Billie, Mohawk funnyman Buddy Big Mountain, the Wyatt Earp Gunfighters wild west show, the Oklahoma City native blues machine Blackhawk Blues Band, the Aztec Fire Dancers from Mexico City and Seminole’s own favorite daughter, songstress Paula Bowers.

The Tribal Fair will also feature, as always, two gang-bustin’ rodeos – The popular Bill Osceola All Indian Rodeo on Friday night and the sanctioned Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) Rodeo on Saturday and Sunday.

Seminole culture will be on display with just about every Seminole craftsperson, artist and vendor in attendance, plus other true American Indians in a spectacular marketplace that stretches throughout the fairgrounds. Tribal members will also vie for cash prizes in a number of contests.

See FAIR, page 6

“Native Visions, Native Voices”

DNA Film Fest Opens Feb. 27

ST. PETERSBURG – “Native Visions, Native Voices,” an American Indian Film Festival sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and hosted by Eckerd College, will begin a week of premieres, screenings and stars, February 27, at Dendy McNair Auditorium as part of Discover Native America (DNA) on the college campus here.

Native character actor Gary Farmer heads a sterling cast of film illuminates from the colorful and vibrant world of American Indian film at the week-long festival, now in its second year as part of the Seminole Tribe/Eckerd DNA activities.

The Festival will run each day from Feb. 27th until Sunday afternoon, March 5 when Seminole Broadcasting Director Danny Jumper will screen his documentary short “Our Past Is Our Future” and the Dr. Patricia Wickman documentary “Osceola’s Journey.”

Elizabeth Weatherford, of the Smithsonian’s National Museum of The American Indian will kick off the event, **Sunday Feb. 27** at 2 p.m. by screening five films from the Museum collection: “Spudwrench-Kahnawake Man,” Punalka: The Upper Biobio,” “Stolen Waters,” “Borders,” and “Backbone of the World.”

Award-winning videographer Beverly Singer will be featured on **Monday Feb. 28** (7:30 p.m.) when she premieres her own film:

See DNA page 15

Discover Native America 2000 Events

Feb. 18—March 31—Exhibit: Artist Noah Billie, St. Petersburg Museum of History, 727-894-1052
Feb. 25 – “Tribute To Noah Billie,” reception at St. Petersburg Museum, 6 p.m., 727-894-1052
Feb. 25 — Chief Jim Billie in concert, 8:30 p.m., Borders Books and Music, Tyrone Square Mall, St. Petersburg, 727-343-5534
Feb. 27—March 5 — “Native Visions, Native Voices” Film Festival, Eckerd College, 727-846-8297
March 3 — Aztec Fire Dancers, “Get Downtown,” St. Petersburg, 5:30 p.m., 727-895-0051
March 4 — “American Indian Music Night,” 9 p.m. Ferg’s Sports Bar, 1320 Central Ave. St. Petersburg, 717-822-4562
March 4-5 —Powwow and Music Festival, Eckerd College, 10 a.m., 800-535-2228



GRIP OF DANGER: His right hand firmly locked in the thrashing gator’s mouth, Seminole Chief Jim Billie fights for control. Final score: Alligator 1, Jim Billie -1.

Gator Bites Off Chief Billie’s Finger

By Colin Kenny and Peter B. Gallagher

BIG CYPRESS - Seminole Chief Jim Billie gave the finger to a wild alligator, recently.

The gator bit it off. Minus his right ring finger, and with a few lacerations on the remaining four digits, the colorful leader of Florida’s 2,600-member Seminole Tribe was released from Hollywood Memorial Regional Hospital, Feb. 2, after emergency surgery following a “wrestling” match with a seven-foot gator the day before.

“I’m fine,” the 55-year-old Billie said from his home on the Big Cypress reservation one hour west of Fort Lauderdale. “My heart is a good three feet or so from my fingers. I’ll be all right.

“The gator did his job. He won again.” “Billie ordered that the gator be kept alive: “I want to honor that gator. With all the help they have given me, I guess (giving up a finger) is a small little payment . . . reminding me they can still dominate. Go gators!”

Billie, a popular native singer/songwriter whose 1999 release on the SOAR label is titled “Alligator Tales,” has been wrestling gators for fun, food and profit since he was five years old and is known as one of the greatest alligator showmen in history. Knee problems, compounded by the slap of a huge gator tail during an exhibition in Cocoa ten years ago, however, kept him out of the “pit” until Wednesday.

Reconstructive surgery on his knees and the return of his strength and mobility gave him the confidence to try it again, said Billie: “I thought I’d go back in there and reinstate my manhood.”

About 100 tourists witnessed the incident at

Billie Swamp Safari, the Seminoles’ outback tourist attraction on Big Cypress. The horrifying scene was also caught live on three video cameras by a Canadian television crew in the area for a fishing show. Billie said his first mistake was bypassing Seminole tradition which says that one should seek permission from a member of the Snake clan before handling reptiles:

“I know I should have listened to Betty Mae Jumper, Mary Bowers, Big Shot, Esther Gopher and the rest of the Snake Clan members,” said Billie.

In the gator pit, which is actually a shallow pool filled with the saurian beasts, the Chairman made an impromptu appearance during a gator “demonstration” show with Billie Swamp Safari guide Swamp Owl. Billie said his next mistake was leaping upon the back of the seven-footer. “I always tell my wrestlers never to mess with any gators that small. They bite hard and will start spinning fast,” said Billie, who used to specialize in wrestling large, freshly caught alligators during his show days.

While straddling the gator’s back, Billie pinned the reptile’s mouth down into the water with his left hand: “I thought I had enough (pressure) to keep the gator’s mouth closed.” He miscalculated, however, for when he reached over the front of the gator’s snout with his right hand to fully muzzle the beast, the jaws clamped down on all four fingers.

Both started rolling in the water until Billie finally broke free. He held up his hand to show Swamp Owl that roughly two inches of the ring finger was missing, then clasped the hand into his shirt and walked away smiling while Swamp Owl continued the show. “The crowd thought it was all part of the show,”

See FINGER, page 8

Coconut Creek Casino Opens

By Dan McDonald

COCONUT CREEK — Snipping a “ribbon” made out of a long roll of cash register paper, Chairman James E. Billie opened the doors of the Seminole Tribe’s Coconut Creek Casino, Feb. 7, then stepped aside as a crowd streamed into the newest Tribal gaming facility.

The use of the cash register tape may be appropriate for what was called a “soft opening” of the first phase of the Casino. Before cutting the tape, the Chairman presented Sam Goldsmith, Mayor of this town of 42,000 people, a check for \$62,841.53.

That check represents the first monthly installment on the agreement worked out between City of Cocunut Creek and Tribal officials to cover the increased infrastructure expenses related to the Casino. The opening, which was made even while work con-



Chairman Billie (R) hands first check to Mayor Sam Goldsmith.

tinues on the property and grounds, ends nearly four years of legal wrangling.

“This is a good day for the Tribe and we believe for the City of Coconut Creek,” Billie said as he stood aside as the first visitors – estimated at 1,000 people – streamed into the 24,000-square-foot facility. “We think this will work out well for both the Tribe

See CASINO, page 15

Battle of Okeechobee New Development Threatens War Site

■ **Editorials: Page 2**

By Michael James

OKEECHOBEE– The land where one of the most famous battles in American Indian history was fought is threatened with development. The blood-soaked earth of the Battle of Okeechobee, where the Seminole Indians fought off the U.S. Calvary, may someday be a 300-home subdivision called Rowland Estates.

A proposal for this development ignited a flurry of complaints and a meeting was held at the Okeechobee County Civic Center, Jan. 12, to discuss the matter. Because the property in question is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Department of the Army, Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division, Atlantic Permits Branch called the meeting to inform all interested parties – including the Seminole Tribe of Florida — of the proposed development.

The objective of this face-to-face meeting, according to the Corps, was to discuss options that will allow the landowners to realize financial benefits from the property while retaining the site’s historical elements. Public Comments the public had already been solicited:

“A significant portion of the project area is located within the Okeechobee Battlefield site,” wrote Bertil Heimer. The project was first placed on Public Notice on Aug. 1, 1996. According to Heimer, during

See BATTLE, page 4

Noah Billie Tribute Exhibit Set

By Charles Flowers

ST. PETERSBURG – A major retrospective exhibit of paintings by the late Seminole artist Noah Billie is being mounted at the St. Petersburg Museum of History here. Paintings are being curated and collected by staff of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, including David Blackard and Polly Nordstrom.

Mr. Billie, who died last month at 51, left a legacy of art that some experts believe makes him the most significant painter in the history of the Seminole Tribe.

“I think he’s the best we have produced,” said Billy L. Cypress, who is one of several Tribal members to purchase a painting from the artist when he was alive. While early Noah Billie works were sold in the \$300-\$500 range, later works fetched upwards of \$6,000 apiece.

“There are other fine painters,” Cypress said. “But Noah had a large body of work, and a long productive period when he was able to support himself entirely by his art.”

St. Petersburg Museum director Sam Bond said



A favorite Noah Billie subject: traditional Seminole life.

he is proud to have his museum – the third oldest in Florida – exhibit Mr. Billie’s works.

See NOAH, page 14

Editorial

Vigilance For Native Sites

***Mark Madrid**
Just about anyone who lives in Florida has probably noticed that this state is experiencing acceleration in development of new homes, shopping centers and roads. As the population of the United States and the world expands, seeking new areas to live in, and with all of this construction going on, many old towns (*tallahassee*) and cemeteries (*yaht hola peh*) are being rediscovered, or uncovered for the first time in hundreds of years.

There has been a tendency till now to refer to historic or abandoned American Indian towns and cemeteries as “mounds” and “burial sites.” This tends to create a sort of emotional buffer zone to distance the direct relationship with the descendants of those folks who lived “back when.”

In today’s world there are new people in the neighborhood, some that have more concern for the feel of money and fame for themselves, than a concern for the feelings of those families whose kin have just been scattered around the construction site.

Billy Cypress, executive director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Ah Tah Thi Ki Museum Authority, recently met with three members of the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) and the director and staff of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma’s Historical Preservation Office for an informal lunch at Billie Swamp Safari. One of the reasons for the meeting was to solidify a spirit of cooperation between the three offices in order to help maintain an American Indian presence in the ongoing dialogue with the state of Florida.

The law states that when human remains are found construction is to stop until an anthropologist can determine whether or not the bodies are “Native American” or not. If it’s determined they are, then there is a list of contacts that need to be made. The list includes the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe

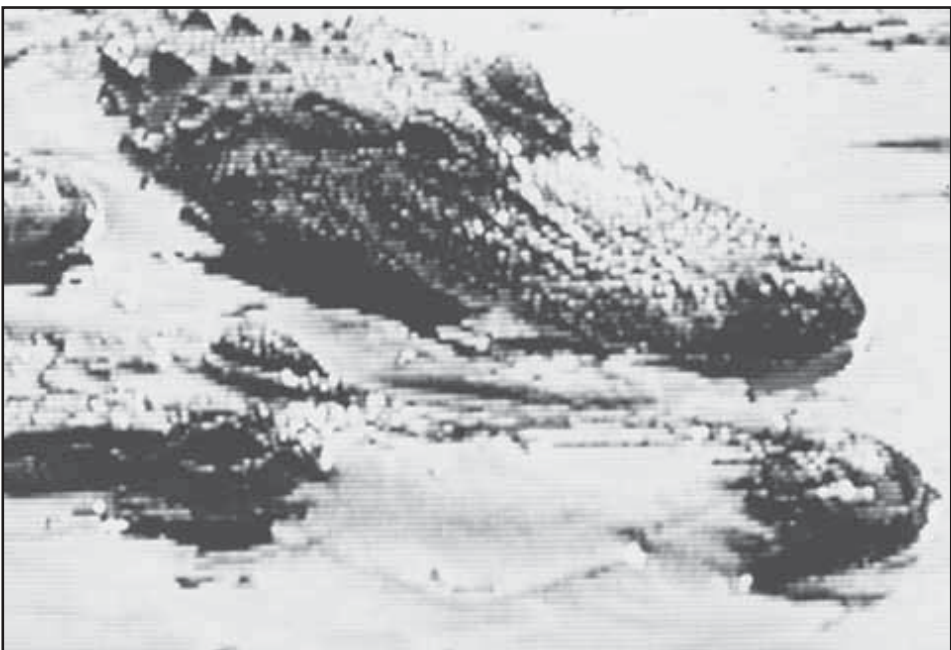
of Indians of Florida, The Independent Seminole Nation of Florida, the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma and, in some cases, the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma and the Poarch Creek Tribe of Alabama.

There is concern by Florida Indians that the State of Florida may not have been following the letter of the law concerning American Indian historical sites and remains. The Seminole Reservation in Tampa exists today because the law was followed when human remains – Seminoles from Fort Brookes – were unearthed by bulldozers building a downtown parking garage in the mid-1980’s. It was a controversial issue that ended in fair compromise only because of the strong posture (colored with legal threats) established by the Seminole Tribe in its support of Tribal sovereignty.

That one made the papers. But we don’t hear about them all. There are hundreds of buildings, parking lots, roads and shopping centers built right on top of sacred indigenous sites in Florida alone. And yes, it sure does distress a builder/developer when his ‘dozer comes up with a Miami Circle smack in the middle of a multi-million-dollar project. But, any developer who builds in Florida, especially near water, should be prepared for an archaeological surprise. It goes with the territory.

The combined efforts and vigilance of the Seminoles of Florida and Oklahoma, along with the cooperation of the proper federal and state agencies, should prevent mistakes (and coverups) from occurring. Anyone with information about any disturbance or discovery of an indigenous mound or burial site should contact the Seminole Tribe immediately. The public spotlight, when turned on this issue, will protect the rights of American Indians, even if public officials balk.

— *Mark Madrid is an officer with the Florida chapter of the American Indian Movement (AIM).*



He-tho-pek-chi-chosh-chah!!! See page 8.

Indians Find Ally In McCain

By Patrick May
SIPAULOV, Ariz.—The Hopi Indians bury their dead on two sides of the mesa that raises this village in its dusty fist. Graves of children face the east, young souls rising with the dawn. Adults lie to the west, their spirits setting with the sun.

From the graveyards the desert soars outward, empty yet laced with meaning, boundless though confining as a prison cell.

For the past 18 years, these ancestral lands of the Hopi and neighboring Navajo tribes have drawn John McCain, presidential hopeful, former Navy pilot and POW whose own spirit was torn asunder inside a North Vietnamese jail, McCain has quietly sculpted a large piece of his political career from the blood-red clay of Indian Country.

McCain, who won the Iowa caucus and New Hampshire Primary, has clearly captured the nation’s attention. Voters of both major parties are entranced by his unpredictability, heartened by his candor, intrigued by his past.

McCain has been a loyal and passionate advocate of American Indian rights since first elected to office in 1982. And his zeal offers a window into the candidate’s character, unobscured by the sound-bite packaging of the political race.

Through that window, we see a man driven by an overriding sense of honor, of duty and obligation to a good and just America, spawned during a childhood within a decorated Naval clan, and girded by his own wartime experiences. From that comes an outrage over promises broken and a sympathy for the underdog in American life.

But McCain’s passion for Indian issues is also imbued with his conservative values, his conviction that the less government the better, that democracy is better served by self-reliance.

“He saw us as a group that wants to do good but is always running into problems,” said Peterson Zah, former head of the Navajo Nation and a longtime McCain ally. “So in his mind, we become the underdog. At the same time, he knows how patriotic Indian people have been, how we’ve served in the military, how we love this country despite how the government has treated us.”

The three-term Arizona senator has made numerous trips to reservations around the West. He has conducted hearings on tribal woes of child abuse and bitter land disputes. He has burrowed into the heartbeat of Saturday night in Gallup, N.M., studying the problem of Indian alcoholism firsthand in the America Bar on Coal Avenue, in the seedy motels along Route 66, and in the garbage dumps behind Safeway that have become home to the Navajo homeless.

He has his detractors. Some American Indians lump McCain with other politicians they see as carpetbaggers. Others say McCain uses his elected office to control Indians, that he helped crush a tribal leader he considered a threat, that his support of tribal sovereignty is political subterfuge.

“McCain claims to be the Indian’s friend, yet he led the overturn of an elected representative of the Navajo people,” said activist Vern Lee. He was referring to Pete MacDonald, a powerful and popular Navajo leader in the 1980s now in prison for taking bribes. “I’m not saying MacDonald is totally innocent, but the way he was targeted and prosecuted was unfair and one-sided.”

Along the way, though, McCain has earned the respect of many Indian authorities and elected officials. As chair of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, McCain argued forcefully for pro-Indian legislation, much of it—from health care to criminal justice—bearing fruit today on reservations from California to Oklahoma.

“Not His District”
It’s not sexy stuff. Stumping for Indian rights neither draws voters nor opens wallets. At times it has put him in the middle of stubborn tribal disputes that all sides admit are lose-lose propositions.

So why does he bother? From interviews with McCain’s friends, from his own writings and comments he has made on the presidential campaign bus, answers emerge. McCain fills the 349 pages of his autobiography, “Faith of My Fathers,” with testimony of how father and grandfather—both four-star admirals in the Navy—taught him that true patriotism rests on allegiance not just to America but also to all who live within its borders, both the privileged and the forgotten.

McCain’s naval service solidified those feelings. And some who know him well say the brutalizing isolation he suffered as a POW helped galvanize him to their cause.

“I think John did a lot of soul-searching in prison,” said Ferrell Secakuku, 62, former Hopi chairman, standing in the sun-baked reservation he has escorted McCain through over the years. “Thirty-one months of solitary confinement allowed him to understand us, why we feel we are part of the Earth. And because he has suffered, he understands the oppression Indians have undergone, too.”

Latinos have also supported him, giving him 55 percent of their vote in Arizona in his last Senate run. In an anecdote from “John McCain: An American Odyssey,” author Robert Timberger describes midshipman McCain coming to the defense of a Filipino servant at the Naval Academy whom an upperclassman was berating.

“Glory,” McCain would later write in his autobiography, “belongs to the act of being constant to something greater than yourself, to a cause, to your principles, to the people on whom you rely, and who rely on you in return. No misfortune, no injury, no humiliation can destroy it.”

After his release from POW camp in 1973 and subsequent retirement from the Navy, McCain ran in 1982 for Congress in a state and region that’s home to more than a quarter-million of the country’s 2.4 million American Indians. Sprawling over parts of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah, the Navajo Nation, the country’s largest, provided a potent political constituency for McCain.

Peterson Zah recalls seeing the young McCain working a parade up in Window Rock, capital of the Navajo Nation and 345 miles from McCain’s Phoenix base.

Zah remembers McCain as the only politician not riding in a car that day, walking so he could press the flesh of voters even in his fold.

“My dad said, ‘Son, that guy must really like Indians because he came all the way up here for this parade,’” Zah said. “‘If you ever talk to him,’ he joked, ‘tell him this is not his district.’”

Don’t Ruin Battle Site

***Jerry G. Haney**
It is the position of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma that the Okeechobee Battlefield Site, a National Historic landmark located near the north shore of Lake Okeechobee, Florida, be protected from all present and future development, and for this purpose be acquired and placed in tribal or public trust, in order to ensure its perpetual preservation.

On Christmas Day, 1837, American Regular Army Infantry and Missouri Volunteers attacked Seminole men, women, and children at Lake Okeechobee. American combatants numbered 803, while Seminole ranks totaled 380 warriors. Seminole forces eventually withdrew from the battlefield, after Indian non-combatants were safely removed from the battle area. American troops suffered 138 dead and wounded, while the Seminole sustained 25 casualties.

It is also a matter of historic record that the three principal Seminole military leaders during the Battle of Okeechobee, notably, Coacoochee, Alligator, and Halleck Tustenuggee, subsequently accompanied their bands as prisoners of war to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. The Seminole of Oklahoma therefore are direct descendants of those Seminole who participated in the Battle of Okeechobee, and because of this we share equally with the Seminole and Miccosukee of Florida a common legacy, common concern, and common responsibility regarding the protection of the Okeechobee Battle site.

The Oklahoma Seminole today number 12,000, by far

the largest Seminole tribal population. We have successfully maintained our language, life ways, and ceremonies, and exercise a continuing and active interest in the preservation of Seminole traditional cultural properties in Florida. As descendants of those Seminole who fought and died at the Battle of Okeechobee in defense of our ancestral homeland, we revere the battle site as hallowed ground.

The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma also recognizes and respects a more general American heritage regarding the Okeechobee site. American soldiers fought and died at Okeechobee under the command of Zachary Taylor (Col. Taylor), who in 1848 became the President of the United States. The engagement was a pivotal battle of the Second Seminole War, the costliest Indian campaign ever fought by the U.S. Army.

Like Gettysburg Battlefield Site or the remains of the USS Arizona at Pearl Harbor, the Okeechobee Battlefield Site stands as a continuing witness to a landmark conflict in American history where warfare was the cause.

In advocating the preservation of the Okeechobee Battlefield Site the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma joins with all other interested parties, agencies, and entities that may wish to effect a perpetual preservation of this hallowed common ground of shared heritages.

—*Jerry G. Haney is Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.*

e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

Chief Billie:
I wish you a speedy recovery from your incident with the ‘gator. Best wishes to you.
Chris Strickland
chris@new-horizon.net

Chief Billie:
What are you going to do to the gator that bit your finger off?
Mike Tierney
Atlanta, GA

Editor:
Chief Jim Billie is considered an elder of the greater Florida tribe of musicians and folk artists. As such, his friends and fellow pickers are sorry for the inconvenience this accident has caused him. We know his strength is sufficient to carry him through the ordeal. In the age of digital technology, it is difficult to lose a digit. But, on the other hand, there are certain reptilian species (some say maybe the big alligator, for example) which can regenerate an appendage of one form or another. Some species even have a taste for them. Unfortunately, the human animal is unable to grow a new member, under these circumstances. However, it’s important to point out that the courage and resourcefulness of those who undergo such transformations, allows them to persevere. A case in point is the great 1920s fingerpicking guitarist Django Reinhardt, who learned that three fingers a hand can be enough. There are others too, but most of them have never had to survive in the heart of the Big Cypress swamp. Here is a sawgrass flower for our brother to remember the good times. We have to hand it to him.

I am going to honor that gator by letting him live out a life of luxury at Billie Swamp Safari. He'll never have to worry about a meal. But no more finger food!

Editor:
While hunting deer on our mountain, seven years gone by now, a bear, who was endlessly chased by hunters and their dogs, came at me in fear, and frustration. I spoke with her to give time for thinking, but she just kept advancing, until we were face to face at six feet. She gave up her life to me, and I walked in terrible sorrow for many days until I was told by an elder that that was her wish. She knew she was going to die by the hands of those that would not honor her. She had foresight that she could safely be my totem, and continue her life within me in honor and with dignity. Because of the great sorrow that overcame me at the moment in time, I did not rationalize this. My spiritual name means the caretaker of the seven generations to come, so my walking name is now that of Mother Bear. My husband and I do not speak of this taking of life to others as we share hunting stories, for it is too sacred, and the respect for this four-legged is of the utmost protection, for the Bear is greatly honored and held in esteem to many nations of the culture. Thank you for allowing me to share this with you as I know that you will also hold it in great

honor. I shall carry it to you as a gift for your time, as I am honored to have this to share with all. There are three adult deer awaiting me out in the back woods, for it is their breakfast time of grain, and the pawing of the ground has increased, so I will reward their impatience. It has been hard for them, as the snows have heightened, and the winds have sent the temperatures to 44 below, of many nights passing. The winged ones are awaiting attention too. May your day be blessed.
Theresa Elker Bear
Edinburg, N.C.
tja@tdstelmec.com

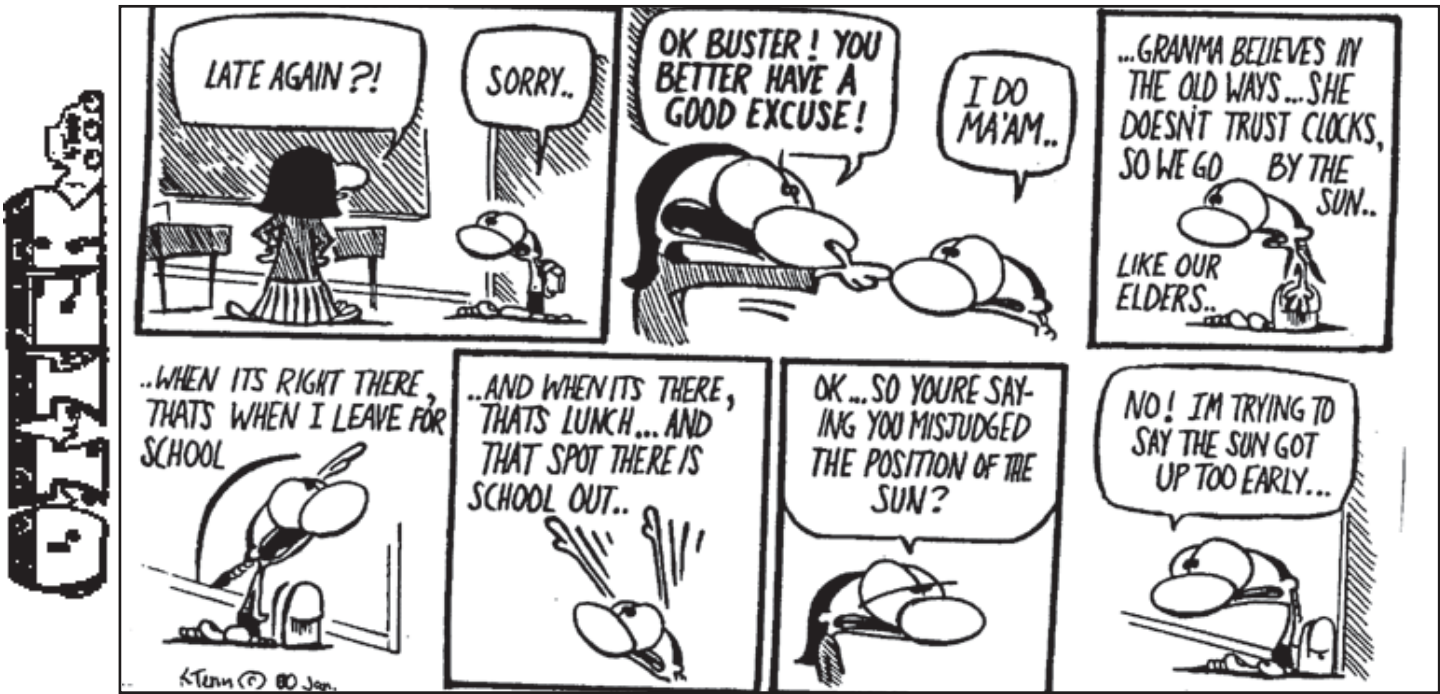
Editor:
I visited and took the tour on Billie Swamp Safari and I felt as if a dormant spirit in me awoke. Thanks to the wonderful people’s aura and the natural lands and a special sho naa bish to our tour guide Phil of the Seminole Panther Clan.

Praveen Samaroo
Edinburgh Village Chaguanas
Trinidad, West Indies

Editor:
Excellent web site. Many of us in England are interested in indigenous cultures and regret the part our forefathers played in their tribulations.
Steve Murray
Keynsham, England
ssmurray@talk21.com

Editor:
Thank you so very much for such a beautiful web site! My son is doing a report on the Seminole Indians,

See E-MAIL, page 14



Seminole Tribune

The Seminole Tribune

Publisher: James E. Billie

Editor: Virginia M. Mitchell

Special Projects: Peter B. Gallagher

Design/Layout: Melissa Sherman

Design/Layout Assistant: Vanessa Frank

Secretary: Valerie M. Frank

Reporters: Libby Blake, Elrod Bowers, Colin Kenny, Ernie Tiger

Business Manager: Dan McDonald

Contributors: Tommy Benn, Charles Flowers, Michael James, Mark Madrid, Sandi McClenithan, Rhonda Roff, Raiford Starke, Sabrina Tuttle, Vida Volkert, Patsy West, Dr. Patricia R. Wickman

is a member of the Native American Journalists Association and the Associated Press. Letters to the Editor must be signed and may be edited for publication.

Subscription rate is \$25 per year by mail. Make money orders payable to *The Seminole Tribune*, 6300 Stirling Rd., Hollywood, FL 33024. Phone: (954) 967-3416. Fax: (954) 967-3482. Or subscribe on the Internet at www.seminoletribe.com

©Seminole Tribe of Florida

The Seminoles In The 1920s

The era of the 1920s, a diversity of cultural and economic activity, is explored in a continuing series highlighting events and individuals that are part of the Florida Seminole and Miccosukee experience in 20th century Florida.

By 1920, Miami, the largest trading and tourist center for South Florida Indians, had 29,419 residents.

Around 1920, the first Florida Seminole family was baptized by Creek Indian Southern Baptist missionaries at Stuart, and Indiantown, Florida. This was the family of Mary Tiger and Jimmy Gopher, Snake clan.

In 1921 Polly Parker, Ma-de-lo-yea Bird Clan died. She was called by the whites the Evangeline of the Seminoles, because like the heroine of American literature, Evangeline, Polly Parker escaped exile to flee back to her people. Her personal epic unfolded during the Third Seminole War. As a captive she was taken with her family on a ship bound for Indian Territory, but when they stopped to gather wood for fuel and on the pretense of gathering herbs, Polly escaped and made her way back to her people.

By 1922 Miami had 55 hotels and 116 apartment houses.

The Reverend Willie King from Wetumpka,

By 1922, Seminole craft shops had been opened at the Miami Seminole village tourist attractions of Musa Isle and Coppinger’s Tropical Gardens.

In 1924, all Native Americans born in the territorial limits of the U.S. were given U. S. citizenship by an act of Congress. They received this confirmation for the valiant efforts of a significant number of Indian soldiers who fought in World War.I. The Florida Seminoles did not know that they had been made citizens of the U. S. in 1924. Such knowledge would have been very disturbing, because they had never surrendered to the United States, with whom they were still technically still at war.

By 1925, Miami had gained 71,419 residents, some 41,000 in only five years.

In 1925, Ta-Ha-Ma Osceola (Panther Clan) was reported to be the first Seminole child born in a Miami hospital. Her parents Cory and Juanita Osceola were residents of Musa Isle Indian Village tourist attraction.

The site of Annie Tommie’s (Panther Clan) camp on Broward Boulevard and the North Fork of New River was up for sale.

In 1926, the Hendry County Reservation closed due to little interest in the government programs by the area Seminoles. The Seminole Agency then moved from Fort. Myers to Dania.

The Dania Seminole Reservation was opened in 1926 for “sick and indigent Indians.” Mrs. Ivy Stranahan persuaded Annie Tommie to relocate her camp to the reservation.

Following Annie Tommie’s move to the reservation, the Fewells, the Huffs, and the Jumpers followed.

Non-reservation Indians came to the reservation to chastise these families for having anything to do with the government reservation.

In 1926, Annie Tommie’s son, Tony Tommie (Panther Clan) led a group of Seminoles who were hired from Musa Isle to be part of the City of Miami’s birthday parade. Their float included “an Indian canoe and a typical thatched hut.”

Tony Tommie went to Washington in 1926 with some Miami businessmen.

In 1927, Tony Tommie and members of his mother’s family participated in a publicity stunt on drained Everglades land near Hialeah, called “Forward to the Soil.” This event, sponsored by the Miami Chamber of Commerce, promoted the Seminoles’ surrender of land to the whites. “Forward to the Soil” created the first such situation that threatened Seminole sovereignty. The Seminole Councilmen living in the isolated Big Cypress con-

tacted their liaison W. Stanley Hanson to write a letter of concern to a prominent member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, bringing the Council’s plight to the government.

In December 1927 Big Cypress suffered a flu epidemic which took several lives including Charlie and Lee Cypress’ daughter, Lip-pechee Panther Clan.

Because of the death of Frank Charlie’s wife (Panther Clan) at Old Florida Camp, the family abandoned that camp and established New Florida Camp.

The Christianized Tiger and Gopher families (Snake Clan) from Indiantown moved south to Dania Reservation. They moved in order that their grandchildren, the first half-white Seminole children ever born and allowed to live, would be protected at the government reservation.

In 1928, the Institute of Government Research privately funded an important report. Popularly called the Meriam Report the document created major changes in the way government

approached Indian affairs.

Also in 1928, Tamiami Trail finally opened, connecting Tampa to Miami.

Around 1928, Seminole wood-carvers were requested to make “totem poles” for the Seminole Village tourist attractions in Miami to give a more pan-Indian flavor to these attractions. In 1929, Miami hosted an air show to call national attention to the area. The Goodyear Blimp “Defender” took Seminoles hired from Musa Isle Indian Village Attraction on a ride over the Everglades.

In 1929, the Florida Seminoles were sur-

Photos By: Seminole/ Miccosukee Photographic Archives



TRAIL OPENS: E.G. Sewell (l.) Abraham Lincoln Clay shake hands in 1928. Below, road bed shows how Tamiami Trail rose from the muck.

veyed by government investigator Roy Nash. Nash’s statistics on the Seminoles’ fur trade showed that trapping and hide sales consisted of 66 percent of their annual income.

On Dec. 30, 1929, it was reported that a Seminole hunter brought in 1,500 baby alligators in one day. —*Reflection Number 174.*



Willie Willie (Bird Clan) at his Indian Village attraction in Hialeah, 1925.

Oklahoma arrived in Florida and would remain with the Florida Seminoles for some 25 years.

Construction on the Tamiami Trail, a road to link the west Florida coastal town of Tampa with Miami had begun in the previous decade. Dade-County contained the metropolis, Miami. However, Collier County, situated in the middle of the project, was poor in population and hence bond issues, and did not have the capital to see the project through. In 1923, Tamiami Trail Blazers from Tampa and Miami convened at the western end of the Trail for a publicity stunt to call national attention to the project. With Seminole guides Abraham Lincoln Clay (Panther Clan) and Little Billie (Wind Clan) they forged across miles of Everglades in Model T Fords and other cars, many of which bogged down. It was an arduous trip, but resulted in enough press in papers throughout the country to gain Federal attention and Federal dollars to complete the road knows as U.S. Highway 41.

Willie Willie (Bird Clan) set up a tourist vil-

lage at Hialeah.



Alligator pits at Willie Willie’s Indian Village in Hialeah in 1925.

census
2000
1/4 pg

+++++

Community News



Madeline Tongkeamha making sweetgrass baskets.

2nd Annual Heritage Festival 2000

By Tommy Benn
HIGHLANDS COUNTY – An estimated 5,000 fans visited the Second Annual Heritage Festival was held at the Edna Pearce Lockett Estate recently. The estate, located on the banks of the Kissimmee River bordering Highlands and Okeechobee Counties, is also a satellite of the Florida Agriculture Museum. Committees and volunteers of

the surrounding counties take part in the reconstruction. The event featured gospel music, folk singers, balladeers, brass, bluegrass and country bands taking their turns in the three show tents. Barbecue pork, beef, and chicken, alligator tail, fried catfish, swamp cabbage, strawberry shortcake — all were fare for the day.



Shell-shakers and cans help dancers entertain.

The visitors encampment first hand saw the Seminole way of life. Seminole pumpkin fry bread was served by Lorraine and Willie Gopher in the newly constructed cooking chickee. Three smaller chickees were built for Seminole crafters to show off their handicrafts, and wares. Madeline Tongkeamha made sweetgrass baskets. Ethel Gopher demonstrated sewing skills, while Lola Gopher showed off Seminole dolls, and Martha Jones demonstrated Seminole bead work. Mary Johns, a favorite with the youngsters, held her audience captive with Native American Seminole folk stories. Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry's dance troupe from the Tampa Reservation caught the eyes of many guests. The Stomp Dancers wear traditional clothes of multi-colored patchwork jackets, skirts and turbans. Bobby's dancers showed the audience several Seminole social dances. Spectators were urged to participate with the dancers, getting in rhythm with the dancers and their chants. An 1890s era cow camp was set up showing the small cracker cattle along with the old type cracker horses. These animals are direct descendants of the Spanish breeds brought to the new world in the early 1600s. Patrick Smith, author of the best selling novel *A Land Remembered* on hand, too. He autographed copies of his three best-selling novels.

Battle

Continued from page 1

the initial comment period, serious issues concerning the proposal's impact to the historic property were raised.

Steve Terry, spokesman for the Miccosukee Tribe, told the Army Corps' Steve Brooker, "We have answered why we objected. We are here today to gather information on the site so we can go back to the Elders to see what they think should be done. Only then can we give input back to the Corps."

Ted Underwood, who represents the Historic Preservation Office of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, stated the thousand miles of distance between the Oklahoma Seminoles and the site does not dilute the Tribe's interest. "The site needs preservation," Underwood said. "It is historic and hallowed. The Seminoles were there to defend a way of life." Underwood then read the official Seminole Nation's statement, which gave some of the details of the battle: (See Editorial Page 2)

When questions arose concerning where the site is actually located, Underwood concluded by saying, "There are enough accounts of the battle that another excavation is not warranted. Our hope is that the owners would consider preserving the site, and we stand with those who wish to preserve the site."

In defense of the position that the remains of Seminole warriors probably remain at the battle site, Underwood and others referred to the Jan. 7, 1838 diary entry of Lt. Henry Prince after his tour of the battlefield:

"The bodies of Indians were mouldering (sic) here and there near the trees where [they] fell," Prince wrote.

The fact bodies remained at the site for at least two weeks suggests that they may have never been recovered.

Bobby Billie, representing the Independent Seminole Nation, began his opposition to any form of development by referring to an 1842 treaty in which the government promised to honor land boundaries set by Indians.

"You never did that. We remember those words," Billie told the mediator. "You might say that we are not recognized, but you're going to have to deal with us. We're going to protect those people. I am a generation of those people, I'm not going to give them up."

Representing the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Water Resources Director Craig Tepper aimed his questions at the representatives of the Rowland Trust.

"I'm here to gather information and to let you know that the Tribe is serious about protecting its history," said Tepper. He also turned up the heat a bit as he sought answers to the nature of the trust.

"It is my experience," said Tepper, "a company is more than the sum of its lawyers."

Bob Rose, attorney for the Rowland Trust, obliged Tepper with an abbreviated history of the trust the late Ray and Lita Rowland established in the 1960s. After their deaths, their estate was turned into a "foundation to help orphanages and religious organizations."

"We respect the heritage of Indians," said Rose, "But the trustees have an obligation to make money." Rose continued by saying that no one say with certainty where the battle took place, but the foundation would certainly entertain any process to purchase as long as a fair market value is obtained. When questioned about what a fair market value is, Rose said that in the absence of an appraisal, "\$7 to \$8,000 per acre would be fair."

"That's a lot of money but not in terms of the significance of the site," said Rose, who continued by saying the foundation would consider donating 2 to 3 acres — where a knife was found — for preservation.

Historian Bill Steele, who has been close to the events concerning the Battle of Okeechobee since the mid-1980s, left little doubt concerning where the majority of the fighting actually took place. Steele shared stories that have evolved through the years that located the battle site. Steele developed his argument in a logical fashion as he related tales about the battle.

To support his belief in the precise spot of the battle, Steele went to an obscure set of Army records in order to research the battle. As he progressed in his work and more information and technology became available, Steele realized that U.S. Army Lt. Henry Prince was a soldier by duty, but a frustrated civil engineer at heart. Prince, it seems, made very precise drawings — engineer quality drawings — nearly everywhere he traveled.

When Prince made his Jan. 7, 1838 entry into his diary he included a drawing with precise measurements. Steele was able to superimpose Prince's drawing over a modern aerial photograph. The result was an astonishing match that put the sawgrass quagmire where the soldiers were cut down precisely on the land in question. Steele concluded by saying that the Okeechobee Battle Site is as significant as Little Big Horn and Horseshoe Bend — other famous Indian struggles.

U.S. Rep. Clay Shaw (R-Fort Lauderdale), who was unable to attend the meeting, sent a letter in support of preservation of the Okeechobee battle site.

Rep. Shaw wrote: "Knowing of your interest in the area surrounding the Battlefield Okeechobee site, I am writing you to express my strong support for its preservation as a historic landmark. As you may be aware, this land is not only a wetland, but also a National Historic Landmark. It is the site of the last Major Indian War in the eastern United States and is considered sacred land. This battle site is historically significant in that it united several Indian tribes and helped to bring to prominence a U.S. Army soldier, Col. Zachary Taylor, who would later become president. I wholeheartedly support the efforts to preserve this invaluable site."

During the conclusion of the meeting, the Corps listed several options concerning the property and the permit. The Corps could issue the permit deny the permit, issue the permit with conditions, arrange a purchase deal, or withdraw the application altogether. A decision is expected this fall.

After the meeting adjourned, the group assembled at the Okeechobee Battle Site for a first hand look at the property.

Maybe We Can Help?

The Law Offices of
Guy J. Seligman, P.A.
320 S. E. 9th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33316

954-760-7600

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

LICENSE PROBLEMS?
Suspended License • Revoked License • Traffic Tickets • DUI



DANCERS FEATURED AT DANIA MUSEUM: William Cypress (l) keeps a drum beat while William Osceola dances at the opening of the show, "Tribal Spirits," which features sculptures of native peoples at the Graves Museum in Dania. The show runs through April. For information, call (954) 925-7770.



**PREPARING NATIVE AMERICAN LEADERS
FOR EFFECTIVE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
AMONG THEIR OWN PEOPLE**

**INDIAN BIBLE COLLEGE
PO BOX 30880
FLAGSTAFF, AZ 86003**

Sign up for
Fall classes
NOW!

Website: www.indianbible.org

E-mail: ibc@indianbible.org

4-H Youth Prepare For Show And Sale

By Polly Hayes
4-H members from Immokalee, Big Cypress Reservations attended a swine showmanship clinic that was held at the Big Cypress 4-H Complex on February 22,2000. There were forty one participates including leaders and parents for the clinic for swine projects in preparations for the upcoming 14th Annual Livestock Show and Sale that will be held on **Saturday, February 26, 2000** at Brighton Reservation, a week following the Brighton Field Day. Sonja Crawford, the Hendry County Extension Agent demonstrated how to turn and keep the swine moving so the judge can judge the child and swine at their best showmanship ability. The members took turns in improving their showmanship skills. Lunch was sponsored by Mr. Mondo Tiger, Big Cypress Board Representative.

There will be a steer and swine clinic held on Brighton Reservation on February 5th starting at 1 PM for those members that have steer project and for the ones that did not make to the Big Cypress clinic have another chance to attend a showmanship workshop.

The **show** will begin at 10 AM with approximately 107 animals with members from Tampa, Big Cypress, Hollywood , Immokalee and Brighton Reservations. During the show, the youth will be showing their animals in the different weight classes of light, medium to heavy weights. The judge will select 1st, 2nd , 3rd place out of each class.

The youth is also judged for their showmanship skills. There will be a **buyers dinner** at 5 PM which will consist of steak, ribs, swamp cabbage, potatoes and fry bread and tea or coffee. The buyers dinner is a courtesy meal from the 4-H clubs for the buyers and others who



Youngster shows his hog during last sale.

wishes to bid or provide add-on to the youth showing and selling their animals at the sale. The **sale** will begin promptly at 6:30 PM. with the auctioneer taking bids. The buyer has the options of where he would like for his purchased animal to go to slaughter and how the butcher should cut the meat. The Seminole 4-H Office will make sure to get the animals to the

slaughter house and to deliver the meat to the buyer after being processed. 4-H members have been busy writing letters to potential buyers and interested parties with an invitation to come out and see their projects. Come out and your Seminole Youth will be happy to show you all their hard work working with their animal projects. There will be approximately 89 swine and 18 steers that will be up for auction. The major purpose of the Seminole Indian Livestock Show and Sale is to provide an annual show for the exhibiting of 4-H projects. In the course of raising project animals, a 4-H member has greater expenses than would normally be incurred in raising livestock. Members usually purchase high quality animals, use higher quality feed and supplements, more veterinarian supplies and show products than normal production practices. They also have a large investment in time and training their livestock project animals for the show. It is the hope of the Advisory Committee and the 4-H Office that buyers are willing to reward 4-H members for their work and efforts with sale prices that will reflect a profit for the youth and encourage them to continue in their project work. Come out and show your support for 4-H!— **Polly Hayes is the 4-H Coordonator.**

Cattlemen Hold Trade Show

By Tommy Benn
KISSIMMEE – The 17th Annual Cattlemen’s Trade Show, sponsored by UF/IFAC, Cooperate Extension Services, was another great success with cattlemen and cattlegwomen coming from all over the state to take part. Doors opened at 8 a.m. the topic this years was ‘Beef production in the 21st Century.’ The floor was moderated by Sharon Fox Gamble who is the Institutes Chair person. Ms. Gamble is the Extension Livestock Agent from Volusia County. On the floor of the trade show, many spectators looked in awe at all the wonderful new products and equipment gathered for the annual show. From livestock equipment portable pens, head catchers, squeeze chutes, new fencing materials, fertilizer, lime-stone, chemical herbicides and insecticides were all featured. Information on various cattle breeds was also available. Natural Resource Director for the Seminole Tribe, Don Robertson, was gathering literature and pamphlets attending various seminars making sure the tribe was staying in line with other state cattle producers. Several tribal members were on hand visiting the trade show booths and attending seminars as well. Sammy Gopher, Archie Johns and Jack Smith Sr., Rosie Billie and Mary Johns were all guests. Others Seminoles were seen surveying the trade show booths, buying tickets on the 4-wheeler being raffled off, checking out the trucks and trailers, cattle chutes and portable pens.



Jack Smith Sr. enjoying trade show.

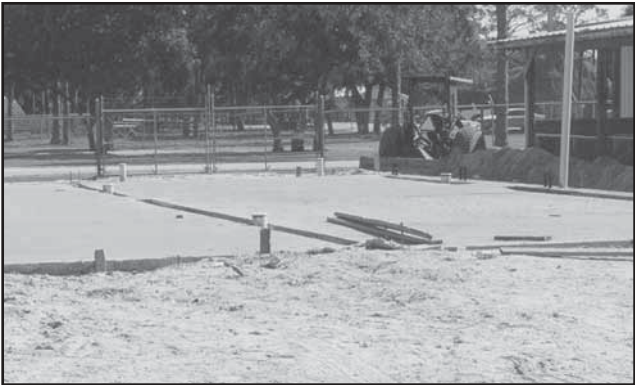
4-H To Get New Swine Barn

By Tommy Benn
BRIGHTON – 4-H Director Polly Hayes announced the new swine barn will be ready for this year’s annual 4-H Show and Sale set for Feb. 26.

The 40 by 60 pole barn structure, will house 90 swine for the 4-H members. It features a concrete floor, and is being constructed by Close Construction of Okeechobee. The sale date this years is one week after the Brighton Field Days. Representatives from the five reservations set the date on Saturday hoping to draw more buyers with less time missed from school by the participants of the Show and Sale.

Final weigh-in is set for Friday, Feb. 26, at the Brighton 4-H Show Barn. Steers will weigh in between 4 – 6 p.m. Hogs will be weighed between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Show time is set for 10 a.m. at the Brighton



SWINE CITY: Future home to little porkers.

4-H Show Barn. The buyer’s dinners is 5 p.m. The Livestock Sale will begin at 6:30 p.m. Please come out and support the Seminole Youth and their 4-H projects.

DIRECT
TICKETS & TRAVEL

SPORTS
CONCERTS

THEATER
BUY/SELL

SUPERBOWL - NASCAR - FINAL FOUR

All Events Local and Nationwide

Broward: 954 938.9090 Toll Free: 1.888 590.9090

We Deliver Licensed & Bonded # 31393

<http://www.directtixx.com>

WORLD
FORD 1/2
Page

Injured Bull Rider Signs Book Publishing Contract

By Tommy Benn WILLISTON, FL. — Paralyzed PRCA Champion Bull Rider Pee Wee Mercer signed with Co-author Patrick Smith (author of *A Land Remembered*) to publish a book called *The Last Ride*. The book will be published by Seabird Press.

Mercer, who was a professional rider for seven years, was injured at the PRCA Southeastern Rodeo Final held at the Brighton Indian Reservation in 1995. Pee Wee had completed his ride and scored 75 points for his effort.

As Mercer tried to get clear and free from the bull, the animal bucked again breaking Mercer's neck. He was air lifted from the Fred Smith Arena to Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers.

Mercer, paralyzed from the head down, wrote his book by dictating to his computer. He used voice recognition software to write the book. Proofs were then sent



Pee Wee Mercer won Okeechobee Rodeo on this ride aboard Buck Island Express.

took more than a years to complete. The manuscript now ready to submit to a publisher.

Patrick Smith has three best selling novels. His *A Land Remembered*, which Seminole Chairman James Billie helped research, is a favorite of many Floridians. In fact it was this book, that family and friends read to Mercer, that stirred him so deeply. They would read to him and he could hardly wait for a reader to return and start reading Smith's novel again. Pee Wee hung on every word.

When the Williston Friends of the Library asked Smith to speak at a public presentation, a friend of Mercer's, Michelle Traylo, boldly asked Smith if he would come and meet the young bull rider.

She simply told him that Pee Wee wanted to meet the man who wrote the book that had moved him so. Smith agreed to meet and the rest is history.

Seabird Publisher James Culberson feels the book will reach a wide market, not only those who enjoy the rodeos and cowboy lifestyles, but anyone who reads stories of courage.



Mercer dictated his story on computer.

to Smith. Smith's daughter rewrote the digital pages as Mercer completed them. The edits and rewrites were left in Smith's hands. When completed, they were e-mailed back to Mercer for his approval. The entire process

Florida Statewide Rodeo Round-up

FORT MYERS — The weekend of the 15th and the 16th of January brought out the Seminole Horse Clubs and Rodeo teams from the Hollywood, Big Cypress and Brighton reservations to participate in the Florida Junior Rodeo Association's weekend events. The rodeo was held at the Sheriff's Posse Rodeo Arena in Fort Myers. The two-day event was host to young cowboys and cowgirls from all over the state of Florida. Those who attended from the Seminole Tribe were Stephen Billie, Shadow Billie, sisters Shelby and Sheyanna Osceola, Roy Stuart, Shelby DeHass and Nick Jumper — all from Hollywood, and Jade Braswell of Brighton. Wilson Bowers of Big Cypress did not compete as he is still recovering from a leg injury sustained in a previous bull-riding competition.

David DeHass, coordinator for the Hollywood Horse Club and Rodeo teams reported those groups receive most of their financial support from the council representatives who fund travel expenses to the various competitions. He states the basic criteria for membership in the horse club and rodeo team is the desire to ride and participate in rodeo activities. These young people learn good sportsmanship and the responsibility and care of our four-legged brothers. The sport of rodeo is an avenue for these young people to achieve pride in their

accomplishments. The eight contestants interviewed were all enthusiastic about the competition and exhibited the most respectful behavior this writer has seen in young people anywhere. They conducted themselves as professional athletes, treating each



Part of the Seminole squad and supporters at Florida rodeo.

other and their animals with respect.

DeHass also coordinates trips out of state for his group and their families to such events as the Indian National Rodeo Association Finals held in Albuquerque this past April. "There's a lot of parent involvement within this group and most are very supportive of their kids." He further stated "They are also expected to maintain acceptable grades (which is required by the Florida

Junior Rodeo Association) — and keep out of trouble."

These young cowboys and cowgirls work hard to prepare for their competitions. The Brighton group may practice on Thursday nights at their indoor arena, and for a mere \$10, rope to their heart's content. Although the Hollywood arena is undergoing a facelift, the group finds suitable places for their practice, as do those in Big Cypress. Club members at the weekend events ranged from age eight to 13.

The first event was bareback riding. Seminole's Stephen Billie blasted out of the shoot and held promise of a successful ride, but due to complications with saddle riding, was a second or so short of the eight second whistle. Although he was offered a re-ride, he declined due to a minor but painful injury he sustained on his arm. His competitor, Joseph Szentmartoni was unable to stay on long enough to receive any time for his short ride, leaving Stephen still in the running for top honors.

Barrel racing followed with six of the Seminole youth competing in this event: Shelby DeHass, Sheyanna and Shelby Osceola, Roy Stuart, Jade Braswell and Shadow Billie.

Shadow Billie finished in eighth place out of the nearly 50 competitors.

The final event was bull riding. Nick Jumper and Stephen Billie were the only riders representing the Tribe. Although Nick was not able to finish his ride, Stephen scored a 64 — despite a sore arm. Sunday told the tale as Stephen took first place honors in the bull-riding event. Stephen's grandma Polly Hayes and dad Steve were among the crowd cheering him on from the stands.

Fair

Continued from page 1

ber of clothing contests. The Little Miss and Little Mr. Seminole contests will take place Thursday night. Other contests throughout the weekend will include Talent, Archery, and Log Peeling; fine arts and crafts will also be on display in a competition by ages, at the Living Village area.

Alligator wrestling and a panther show will also thrill visitors; last year more than 25,000 visitors were entertained at the Seminole Tribal Fair.

The Tribal recreation department has scheduled special golf, basketball and bowling tournaments in conjunction with the Fair, as well as a 3K Run Saturday morning at the Fair site.

Here is the schedule of events:

Thursday
10 a.m. — Powwow Grand Entry; 10:30 —

Buddy Big Mountain; 10:45 — Powwow Exhibition; 11:15 — Aztec Dancers; 11:45 — Wyatt Earp Gunfighters; 12:15 — Buddy Big Mountain; 12:30 — Powwow Exhibition; 1 p.m. — Aztec Dancers; 1:30 p.m. Wyatt Earp Gunfighters; 2 p.m. — Buddy Big Mountain; 2:30 p.m. Aztec Dancers; 3 p.m. — Blackhawk Blues Band; 4 p.m. Powwow Grand Entry; 7 p.m. — Little Mr. And Miss Contest. There will be alligator shows at 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 and 1:30.

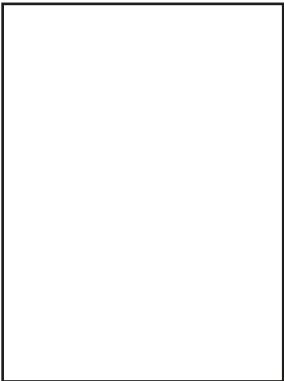
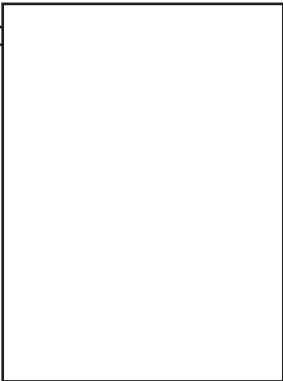
Friday
10 a.m. — Powwow Grand Entry; 10:30 a.m. Buddy Big Mountain; 10:45 — Powwow Exhibition; 11:15 — Aztec Dancers; 11:45 — Wyatt Earp Gunfighters; 12:15 — Buddy Big Mountain; 12:30 — Powwow Exhibition; 1 p.m. — Aztec Dancers; 1:30 p.m. — Wyatt Earp Gunfighters; 2 p.m. — Powwow Grand Entry; 5 p.m. — Paula Bowers; 5:30 p.m. — Blackhawk Blues Band; 6:30 — Talent Contest, Seminole Ballet; 7 p.m. — All Indian Rodeo; 8 p.m. — Powwow Grand

Entry. Alligator Shows at 10:30, 11:30, 12:30 and 1:30.

Saturday
9 a.m. — Clothing Contest; 11 a.m. — Archery Contest; Noon — Powwow Grand Entry; 12:30 p.m. — Chief Jim Billie; 1 p.m. — Log Peeling Contest; 1:30 p.m. — Aztec Dancers; 2 p.m. — Paula Bowers; 3 p.m. — Powwow Grand Entry; 6 p.m. — Aztec Dancers; 7 p.m. — Blackhawk Blues Band; 8 p.m. Powwow Grand Entry. The PRCA Rodeo will commence at 6 p.m. Alligator shows at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Sunday
Noon — Gates Open; 12:30 p.m. — Grand Entry; 1:30 p.m. — James Billie; 2 p.m. — PRCA Rodeo; 2:30 p.m. — Blackhawk Blues Band; 3:30 p.m. — Paula Bowers; 4: 30 — Powwow Grand Entry; 6:30 p.m.—Aztec Dancers; 7 p.m. — Powwow Awards; Alligator Shows at 12:30, 2 p.m. and 4 p.m.

It s more than western



how the west is w

Davie
6211 S.W. 45th Str
(954) 587-9000
plus locations i
Coconut Creek,
Hialeah and Ocala

. . . It s a way of life.

Paula's Furniture

WE SPECIALIZE IN
LOG BEDS
RUSTIC FURNITURE
DRUM COFFEE TABLES

413 S.W. PARK STREET
OKEECHOBEE, FL 34974
941-357-6700

EVERYTHING FOR YOUR COUNTRY HOME
ALSO SAVING YOU MONEY
ON YOUR NOT SO COUNTRY HOME

MENTION YOU SAW THIS AD
AND RECEIVE A
10% DISCOUNT
WE DELIVER

Darlene T. Quinn

#1

MAROOONE

AUTO PLAZA

Call Anytime
For
Appointment

DODGE TRUCKS & DOOLEYS
FORD TRUCKS & DOOLEYS
CHEVY TRUCKS & DOOLEYS

WILL MATCH OR BEAT ANYONES DEAL

SUBURBANS
TAHOES

Z71
CORVETTES

CARS & TRUCKS AVAILABLE
Chevy • Ford • Dodge • Mercedes • Toyota • All
makes and models New & Used

8600 Pines Boulevard, Pembroke Pines, FL 33024
Bus: (954) 430-2628 • Fax: (954) 433-7769
Beeper: (954) 765-9018 • All South FL: 930-3200

\$1,000.00 OFF
ANY CAR OR TRUCK PURCHASE WITH THIS
COUPON
*OFFER VALID THROUGH
DARLENE QUINN ONLY!
*NOT VALID ON ADD VEHICLE

McCain

Continued from page 2

Goldwater voted down international fiscal support again and again on one basic principle: that if we can't take care of indigenous people in this country, we have no right to be putting money into Third World countries. That really resonated with John."

With his election to the Senate in 1986, McCain's passion for Indian matters caught fire. As vice chair and later chair of the Senate Select Indian Affairs Committee, hardly a glamorous address in Capitol Hill real estate, McCain plowed headlong into the subject. Staffers recall the senator, a voracious reader, clamoring for anything Indian-related he could get his hands on.

"He loved to engage in discussion about Indian issues," recalled staffer Eric Eberhard, former deputy attorney general for the Navajo Nation. "Anybody who wanted to take part, from senior staffers to the guy sorting the mail, had complete access to him."

McCain always had time for lawmaking: "We'd plead with John to chair a hearing if the head was not available," said Allen, "and he'd always do it, no matter how busy he was."

Top of his list were efforts to further the move toward tribal autonomy, championed by President Nixon in 1975 with the Self-Determination and Education Act. "McCain was ahead of his time in terms of empowering Tribal governments," said Allen. "He was always focused on strengthening the Tribal economy and he was very, very aggressive about it."

McCain's calls for shrinking big government (he has long argued that the Bureau of Indian Affairs needs to be reduced) and giving ordinary citizens more say in their affairs dovetailed neatly with what Indians wanted.

"He believes in local government," said Keith Harper, attorney for the Native American Rights Fund. "And Tribes are local government."

During his tenure, McCain championed legislation designed to make it easier for Indians to adopt Indian youths instead of having them sent off the reservation into non-Indian homes. He pushed for funding for better Tribal health care, evidenced by the new \$30 million center for the Hopi rising from the desert a few miles from here. And although he's not a big fan of casinos, McCain saw reservation gaming as a step toward Indian autonomy, throwing his support behind the 1988 Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. That legislation has helped bring gambling — and millions of new dollars — onto reservations from California eastward.

"From funding for irrigation projects to preventing theft from Indian grave sites, John was there for us," said former staffer Eberhard.

A defining moment in McCain's ardor for Indian issues came in the late 1980s, when a scandal over a serial child molester exploded on the Hopi Reservation. A teacher named John Boone was accused of sexually abusing more than 100 boys at a Hopi school, and eventually sentenced to life in prison. The scandal shook Indian Country to its core.



Arizona Sen. John McCain is a Republican candidate for president.

"It was one thing to find out the horrible things Boone was doing," said Zah, "but we've had to deal with the effects ever since." The tragedy continues to haunt the reservation, as some victims have committed suicide, lost themselves in alcohol, or become molesters themselves.

"All during that period, McCain was involved," Zah said. "He was outraged, and he helped amend hiring procedures at reservation schools to prevent this from ever happening again."

Hard Lessons

McCain found more cause for outrage with each foray into the desert. Eberhard remembers one trip the senator took to Gallup. Nicknamed "Drunk City," the town has long served as a backdrop to the ravages of Indian substance abuse, even though the problem has been exaggerated into a stereotype most American Indians deeply resent. Still, public drunkenness remains one of the Indian world's biggest challenges, and downtown Gallup at night is the perfect place to see why.

"He was just stunned by the otherworldly quality of what he was seeing," Eberhard said. "From top to bottom, Gallup on a Saturday night is a rough place—a lot of people getting beat up, a lot of mayhem in the drunk tank, a lot of mayhem directed at Indians. There's a real sense of a threat lurking out there."

On another fact-finding visit, McCain wanted to walk the streets of a reservation town west of Window Rock, the Navajo capital. "I told the police to take him to the worst thing they could find," said Dan Lewis, now a senior vice president for Bank of America who spent years on McCain's

staff.

"They took him to the Tuba City (Ariz.) dump, where they found a homeless lady living with her two kids in this hole in the ground, covered by a piece of plywood. I'll never forget John's face when he came back up out of that hole. He shook his head and said 'That's the worst I've ever seen, and there's no one at all speaking up for this lady.' "

"That," said Lewis, "lit a fire in his belly."

Whatever's burning inside John McCain has brought him now to a fateful juncture. Those who know him say his run for the presidency, just like his devotion to American Indians' welfare, is fueled by one simple conviction:

"He really believes that when this country pledges its word, it's important that it be kept," said Eberhard, a McCain friend of 17 years. "And he believes that treaties with tribes are as vital as those with Russia or France."

Keith Harper sees an ever-broader commitment in McCain's support for Indians.

"When McCain says we should care about Indians he's telling us something that's vital to that discourse: that we must tolerate differences among us," Harper said. "And that we can and should keep promises."

— *Patrick May is a writer for the San Jose Mercury News. Reprinted by permission of the San Jose Mercury News.*

Jade Braswell: Real Winner And Role Model

By B. Secody

BRIGHTON -- Meet Jade Braswell of the Brighton Reservation. This young cowgirl is on her way up the ladder of success, not only in the rodeo circuit, but in the path she has chosen for herself.

Jade is the daughter of Kay Johns Braswell and Jay Braswell, and hails from a long line of rodeo pros including the late-great Josiah Johns. She states that her uncles and cousins Billy Joe, Stanlo and of course Marty Johns have been an influence in her choice to get involved in rodeoing, and has been riding all of her life.

This young lady has all it takes to be a winner and has the titles to prove it. She has been "Reserve Champion/Champion" two years in a row, has been in the top 10 in the Florida ERA. She has even traveled to Tennessee for the NBHA finals. Besides cash prizes, she has won several buckles for her efforts in barrel racing and pole bending. Most recently Jade was invited to attend the Florida Inauguration of Gov. Jeb Bush.

Jade, 13, attends Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee and does well in school — one of the criteria for membership

in the Florida ERA.

When asked who she admires the most in her life, her answer was her parents. She looks forward to continuing in her endeavors in being the best she can be, and is already the type of person other young athletes can look up to.



Jade has been a champion for the last two years.

Stephen Billie: Seminole's Own Bullriding Champ

By B. Secody

HOLLYWOOD -- The weekend of Jan. 15 - 16 proved to be a very profitable one for young Stephen Billie of the Hollywood Reservation.

Stephen, who is a member of the Hollywood Horse Club, was one of several young cowboys and cowgirls who traveled to Fort Myers to compete in the weekend long competition sponsored by the Florida ERA. His specialty: bareback and bullriding.

Stephen, age 13, is the son of Mark (Steve) Osceola and Rita Billie of Hollywood; and the grandson of Polly Hayes and late Max



Stephen has been competing for two and one half years.



Stephen Billie won title despite sore arm.

Osceola, Sr.

Saturday's morning bareback ride left Stephen with a injured arm due to a rigging problem, yet by afternoon he was ready to tackle the bull he drew and stayed with it well beyond the eight second whistle, setting himself up for his championship ride the following day. He was the top winner in the bullriding event for the two-day competition.

Stephen has only been competing for two and one half years, and has already made a name for himself in the Florida ERA and in the Seminole Tribe's Horse Club. He has chosen bullriding and bareback riding as his preferred sport, possibly due to his father's past riding capabilities at the Hollywood arena, and the encouragement he has received from family and club members.

Stephen attends American Heritage school and is in the seventh grade. He maintains good grades in school and exhibits the mannerism of a true gentleman. He has chalked up many wins and proudly wears one of the six silver buckles he has won in competition.

Protect Your Rights!

Maybe we can help!

Tired of hiding?

Violations of Probation?

Warrants, open criminal cases?

DUI or DUI injury cases?

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

320 S. E. 9th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33316

954-760-7600

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



Finger

Continued from page 1

go back in there and reinstate my manhood."

About 100 tourists witnessed the incident at Billie Swamp Safari, the Seminoles' outback tourist attraction on Big Cypress. The horrifying scene was also caught live on three video cameras by a Canadian television crew in the area for a fishing show. Billie said his first mistake was bypassing Seminole tradition which says that one should seek permission from a member of the Snake clan before handling reptiles: "I know I should have listened to Betty Mae Jumper,



Mark Madrid

MEET THE PRESS: Chairman Billie holds court.

Mary Bowers, Big Shot, Esther Gopher and the rest of the Snake Clan members," said Billie.

In the gator pit, which is actually a shallow pool filled with the saurian beasts, the Chairman made an impromptu appearance during a gator "demonstration" show with Billie Swamp Safari guide Swamp Owl. Billie said his next mistake was leaping upon the back

of the seven-footer. "I always tell my wrestlers never to mess with any gators that small. They bite hard and will start spinning fast," said Billie, who used to specialize in wrestling large, freshly caught alligators during his show days.

While straddling the gator's back, Chief Billie pinned the reptile's mouth down into the water with his left hand (see strip at left): "I thought I had enough (pressure) to keep the gator's mouth closed." He miscalculated, however, for when he reached over the front of the gator's snout with his right hand to fully muzzle the beast, the jaws clamped down on all four fingers.

Both started rolling in the water until Billie finally broke free. He held up his hand to show Swamp Owl that roughly two inches of the ring finger was missing, then clasped the hand into his shirt and walked away smiling while Swamp Owl continued the show. "The crowd thought it was all part of the show," said Billie, who was driven to the hospital in a Seminole police vehicle.

"I always wondered when I would ever ride in one of those police cars," he laughed. "I thought it might be when I was arrested for something, not for getting bit by a gator."

The amputated finger was found in the water and transported to Hollywood Memorial, where reattachment was discounted by Dr. James Stern and the open wound was closed. Reporters and TV crews scrambled to talk with the Seminole Chairman, who declared: "After a couple shots of morphine, I'm in excellent spir-its."

He showed the severed digit to friends and reporters, commenting that it "smells like pork" and announcing "We're having finger food later if anybody wants some!"

The Chief has been injured by alligators before. In 1977, his left thumb was almost amputated: "Filleted the meat right off the bone," said Billie, describing how doctors were able to "wrap" the tissue back around the bone and restore the thumb.

In 1983, Billie was performing an alligator exhibi-

tion for actress Connie Stevens when he was bit on the buttocks, "barely missing my manhood . . . my voice changed," he laughed. Nothing in his past dealings with alligators, however, was "as dramatic as this one," he said. Billie's son, Micco, now seven years old, was bit on the thumb by a baby gator during the filming of a music video three years ago. His other son, Kowako, four, "loves to fool with gators. I think he will follow in his father's footsteps," said Billie's wife, Lesley.

Billie said he was honored to join the ranks of other Seminole alligator wrestlers who have lost digits, including Paul Bowers, Willie Jim, Mike Johns, John Hall, Barnabas Tommie, Cleophus Yzaguirre, Thomas Storm and



DIGITAL VERITE: Video frame shows Chief moments after injury.

Theodore Nelson. The fate of the severed finger is still up in the air at this writing. Billie is carrying it around in a jar and is considering putting it on a necklace. He wondered if a museum might take it: "They put scalps and bones and mummies in a museum, why not my finger?" Billie asked.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Billy Cypress was not too sure: "Is he joking? If he's not, I guess we'll have to consider it." Cypress noted that current thought among American Indians does not generally favor including human body parts in museum collections.

"We don't accept that type of material," said Gina Brunson, chief curator of the Museum of Florida History in Tallahassee. Nothing personal, she added -- the state museum does not accept any body parts.

A spokesman for the brand new National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) in Washington D.C., however, said NMAI would consider the finger. Michelle Sengsourinh asked Billie to send a Polaroid photo of the finger for a review by the Museum's Curatorial Council.

The head of famous Seminole war leader Osceola was once kept on display at a New York Museum; however the head disappeared during a fire and has never been found.

Chief Billie is expected to make a full recovery. "I can still play guitar just as good as before," he said. "The only person who uses that finger when he plays is John McEuen!"

McEuen, founder and former banjoist for the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, produced Billie's "Alligator Tales" album and is in Nashville putting the finishing touches on Billie's next album, a collection of stories and legends which will be released by SOAR in April.

"I guess we better call the FBI," sighed Billie, whose staunch support of Indian sovereignty has kept him at "war" with the government since he first became chief in 1979. "I'm sure they'll want a new set of fingerprints."

Mark Madrid

GOOD SPIRITS: Chief holds injured hand aloft. He was back to work the next day.

miccosukee ad

SPORTS

EIRA Profile: Kari & Reba

By Michael James
BRIGHTON — You could build a pretty good argument for a genetic tendency for rodeo prowess after spending a few moments with Brighton sisters Kari Kroeplin and Reba Osceola.

Their genes haven't let them down yet. They share good looks, intelligence, spirit, and strength of heart – so why not rodeo? It's an easy sell when you consider they are the granddaughters of one of the greatest Indian cowboys ever — the late Josiah Johns.

Kari Kroeplin and Reba Osceola are living extensions of the great cowboy's life. His legacy continues to color their lives every day.

"It gets people's attention when mom introduces me as his granddaughter," says Kari shyly about the universal mystique attached to kinship with the great cowboy whose very mention elicits a response everywhere people gather to rodeo from Florida to California.

"I've heard a lot of stories about him," said Kari who at 13 years of age has a lifetime of Josiah stories ahead of her. She will also be weaving her own stories along the way.

Kari has been rodeoing for three years in both the pole bending and barrel racing competitions.

"Mom got me started," she says. "She put me on a horse every day until I got it."

Today, she rides the same horse she got started on, an American Quarter Horse named Dandy. Over the course of the past three years she has ridden Dandy at least three times a week in order to build the necessary teamwork relationship required of all barrel racers.

Kari, like many Indian rodeo participants, attaches a spiritual element to her performance as a rodeo athlete. Her most coveted win came last July when she won a belt buckle that at one time belonged to her grandfather, Josiah.

"I knew I had to try my hardest," she says. "It was special to me. I had a dream about him and I always feel like he's watching me."

The first rodeo of the year 2000 was another spiritual milestone for both Kari and her younger sister Reba. On this night, the duo dedicated their efforts to the memory of their friend Amanda Hamlett who would have been 19 that day. Amanda was killed three days after Christmas in a tragic accident. Kari carried Amanda's funeral home memorial card neatly tucked in the inside of her hat



SISTER ACT: Reba Osceola and Kari Kroeplin.

throughout the evening's performance.

Kari said she would like to thank her mom and dad because without them she wouldn't be running these rodeos. She would also like to thank Marty, Kim, and Emma for their support.

When not practicing for the next rodeo, Kari attends Yearling Middle School in Okeechobee. She says someday she wants to be a doctor. For now, she says her favorite thing about school is talking.

Did someone mention talking? Meet the world's foremost authority on the subject — Kari's younger sister Reba. Reba talks all the time. But, that's OK. She has a lot to talk about at 10 years old. She also has the gift of being able to listen intently, while talking of course.

A student at Seminole Elementary School in Okeechobee, Reba Osceola is frequently on the teacher's honor role. Her favorite subject in school is math and she says someday she wants to be a veterinarian. Reba says she loves animals, except for dogs because they don't listen. Horses she says, are where it's at.

Reba has also been involved in rodeo for three years. Before that, she rode horses for pleasure. When she began her rodeo career she participated in two events — barrel racing and sheep riding. Today she only rides barrels, having dispensed with the sheep on the grounds that they "stink."

Reba has been riding her horse Rock for two years. She says she is the only person that can ride him.

"Everybody else who rides him

falls off on the first or second barrel," said Reba.

One of her favorite rodeo stories is about the time she fell off her horse during the steer un-decorating event at an Ocala rodeo.

"He jumped the barrier and I fell flat on my back with my hat covering my face," she said, laughing.

Falling off the horse is not usually in the cards for Reba however. During the last all-girl ranch rodeo held at Brighton, Reba won the all-around title for her age group. She won barrels, pole bending, and came in third in goat tying.

"I won a buckle and money," she said. "I gave the money to mom."

If winning is the upside of horsemanship then cleaning out the stalls must be the down side. Reba takes it in stride.

"The whole family takes care of the horses," she said. "We don't clean stalls, my dad does," added Reba. "It's fun watching him, but we do have to dump the wheel barrow."

Reba says the only time she doesn't practice with her sister is during the unfortunate time when one or the other may be hurt. For good luck, she says a prayer each time she rides. She also sports a red cross on her saddle and a gold one on her hat as symbols of her faith.

Reba would like to thank her mom and dad for all of their help.

"I especially want to thank mom for exercising my horse while I ran for Brighton Junior Miss," she added.

Kari and Reba are the daughters of Lisa and Rodney Osceola.

NASA Basketball

HOLLYWOOD — The Millenmum NASA basketball tournament was held on Jan. 13-15 at the Hollywood gymnasium. On the men's side the Seminoles survived a first round loss to the Miccosukees to finish second to the MS Choctaws.

The Seminoles reached the final round by winning five games in the losers' bracket, which included a win over the Miccosukees.

On the ladies' side, the Mis-Chiefs swept into the finals undefeated and took first place by beating the Ballers.

The Lady Seminoles were put into the losers' bracket by the Ballers. The Seminoles were on the verge of having a rematch with the Ballers with four wins in the losers' bracket, but succumbed to 4-Corners to finish fourth.



Seminoles defeated the Hurricanes.

NASA Golf Tournament



George Grasshopper follows ball.

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — Former Dolphins quarterback Earl Morrall was in the clubhouse and spirits were high at the NASA golf tournament. Held on Jan. 13. (only days before the darkest chapter of Dolphins playoff history was written) at the Arrowhead Country Club, 30 players showed up for the two-man scramble tournament.

A strong breeze and gold tees kept the scores close, only five strokes separated the top five teams. The duo of Mike Micco and Marl Osceola posted a 68 to finish first.

The complete results are:
Two-man Scramble 1) (68) Mike Micco, Marl Osceola 2) (71) Allen Huff, Abe Rockwell 3) (72) John Madrigal, Linda Tommie 4) (72) Mitch Osceola, Jimbo Osceola 5) (72) Maxie Tommie, George Grasshopper.

Closest to Pin #2 – Joe Frank, #8 – Jimbo Osceola, #10 – George Grasshopper, #12 – Abe Rockwell, #17 – James Tommie

Longest Drive - Maxie Tommie, Gina Allardyce.

Dolphins Score Victory

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD – Still smarting from Jacksonville, members of the Dolphins All-Pro squad came to the reservation on Jan. 22 to let off a little steam and enjoy a celebrity football game against the Recreation Department.

A little remark to former running back Lorenzo Hampton about "62-7" from Bo Young threw a little gas on the fire for good measure.

It didn't look good at halftime with the Dolphins leading 20-6, but a couple of sacks by Larry Howard and a long pass snared by resident Communications Department athlete Ernie Tiger helped bring the score to 42-34, Dolphins.

However, the Dolphins were determined not to let the game slide away from them in the late quarters yet again. A quick score by Lorenzo Hampton helped give the Dolphins a cushion. It was enough to propel them to a 54-40 win.

Bloodied but unbowed, Hollywood Recreation waits for Dolphins in softball.



Ernie Tiger snares pass. No replays, please.

High-Tech Bull Riding

By Michael James
BRIGHTON – High tech and finesse are not terms that are normally associated with the world's most dangerous sport. Bull riding, on its best day is a brutal and punishing activity.

Recently though, during a two day clinic which began Jan. 22, former World Champion bull rider Gary Leffew applied high technology and 30 years of finesse in a systematic approach developed by him to help cowboys break bad habits and form good ones.

Leffew, utilizing research of respected psychologists, says it takes the average person 21 days to make or break a habit and most of the mistakes he sees in aspiring bull riders come from bad habits. Leffew's two day clinics are held all over the country and focus on basic techniques and groundwork. The crux of Leffew's method, however lies in a 21-day school which he holds at his ranch in central California. Participants in the rigorous 21 day school are boarded right at the ranch where they receive non stop training over the entire period. The time corresponds with Leffew's make or break philosophy.

"I compare it to line dancing," said Leffew "Muscle memorization is what it takes in order to respond automatically on the subconscious level.

"Riding is subconscious. Everything happens at the speed of light. If you have to think about what you're going to do next, it may be too late."

The speed at which events take place over the course of 8 seconds is neatly handled by his investment in state of the art video equipment which he uses during his clinics. He begins his clinics by showing the participants what a great ride looks like. He analyzes each move, frame by frame, in order to graphically demonstrate the normally invisible elements of a successful bull ride.

"He can turn 8 seconds into a 30 minute teaching session," said one rider.

"That's kind of neat."

Once the initial session is concluded, everybody gets a chance to put theory into practice on as many bulls as they care to ride. When the chute gate opens, Leffew stays on the arena floor to offer coaching help during the 8 second contests. While he supports the riders at ground zero, a technician on the sidelines video tapes the ride for a critique. During the frame by frame critiques, Leffew points out errors and gives pats on the back whenever he sees one of his students employing some of their new found skills.

"Teaching is like an art form," said Leffew, who recognizes that rodeo is the only sport where there is no full time coach on hand to help the athletes. The



COMING UP FAST FOR GILBERT KING: Earth.

EIRA Rodeo 1

By Michael James
BIG CYPRESS — Saturday January 30 marked the first rodeo of the new millenmum. The seasons come and go so quickly, and don't you know the cowboy's and cowgirl's of the EIRA are glad to be back and what an exciting night it was at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena. Her are the results!

Bare Back Riding- First place, Alex Johns with a score of 64 and earning 10 points to start the season off right. Second place goes to Adam Turtle with a score of 55 points and earning 9 points.

Steer Wrestling -First place goes to Sydney Gore with a time of 4.4 seconds earning him 10 points. Second place to Josh Jumper with a time of 4.6 seconds and earning him 9 points. Third place to Naha Jumper with a time of 5.0 seconds earning 8 points. Fourth place goes to Marty Johns with a time of 6.2 seconds and earning him 7 points.

Women's Breakaway Roping - First place goes to the cowgirl Billie Tiger, way to start the season with a time of 4.5 seconds earning her 10 points.

Calf Roping -First place goes to Corbin Warren with a time of 11.0 seconds earning him 10 points. Second place to Marty Johns with a time of 17.7 seconds earning 9 points. Third place goes to Naha Jumper and Fourth place to Happy Jumper both with a time of 23.3 seconds earning them both 7.5 points each.

Saddle Bronc Riding- First place goes to Jay Louis with a score of 68 earning him 10 points. Second goes to Sydney Gore-what a night Doc had, with a score of 60 and earning him 9 points.

Team Roping -First place team goes to Marty Johns and Shawn John with a time of 11.1 seconds earning the team 10 points. Second place goes to Cicero Osceola and Rudy Osceola with a time of 13.7 seconds and earning them 9 points. Third place goes to the team of Justin Gopher and Corbin Warren with a time of

14.9 seconds and earning 8 points. Fourth place team is Parker Jones and Norman Johns with a time of 15.0 seconds earning a total of 7 points.

Women's Barrel Racing - these ladies were on fire with first place going to Trina Bowers with a time of 17.50 seconds earning the cowgirl 10 points. Second place goes to Jo Leigh Johns with a time of 17.73 seconds earning her 9 points. Third place goes to Holly "Scooter" Johns with a time of 17.74 points earning her 8 points. The cowgirl placing fourth was Brenda



ALEX JOHNS: Bronco-busting board member.

goes to our little cowboy, Isaac Bettelyoun with a time of 19.44 seconds. Third place goes to Jaryaca Baker with a time of 6.97 seconds. And fourth place goes to Gavin Willie with a time of 6.14 seconds.

Calf Riding-First place goes to Ehtan Gopher with a time of 32. Second place to Justin Aldridge with a time of 29. Third place goes to Nick Jumper with a time of 2.96 seconds. Fourth place goes to Dayne Johns with a time of 2.39 seconds.

50 and Over Breakaway Roping - First place to Moses Jumper with a time of 54 seconds. Second place to Paul Bowers with a time of 7.3 seconds.

Novice Barrels - First place goes to Ayze Henry with a time of 18.13 seconds. Second goes to cowgirl, Marilee Johns with an exciting run turning in a time of 18.63 seconds. Third place goes to Kari Kroeplin with an exciting run turning in a time of 19.25 seconds. And our fourth cowgirl, Mckenzie Johns placed with a time of 19.36 seconds.

Beginners Barrel Racing - Placing first was Danielle Webster with a time of 21.34 seconds. In second was April Billie with an impressive time of 21.91 seconds. Third place went to Ravenne Osceola with a time of 23.30 seconds. Fourth place went to cowgirl Sheyanna Osceola .

Junior Bull Riding -Wilson Bowers places first with a score of 28 points. Second goes to Clinton Holt with a score of 24. There you have them. Congratulations to all the participants of the EIRA. Come out to the rodeos and show your support, you will never be disappointed. This season is sure to be the most exciting one yet.



Sydney Gore drops down to win steer wrestling event.

Youngblood with a time of 18.25 seconds earning 7 points.

Bulls-the only placer for the night goes to Justin Gopher with a score of 72 points earning him 10 points.

Special Events-Mutton Busting-First place to Kane Bettelyoun with a time of 20.0 seconds. Second place

All-Indian Rodeo Has Record Purse

HOLLYWOOD — Native American Cowboys from all over the United States will compete in all of the standard rodeo events at the Bill Osceola Memorial All-Indian Rodeo during the Seminole Tribal Fair Feb. 11.

The rodeo is dedicated in honor of Bill Osceola, former Seminole Tribal President, preacher, cattleman, coach and founder of Seminole Rodeo in Hollywood.

The rodeo will include the largest pay-out ever at any Indian Rodeo east of the Mississippi. Over \$32,000 added money will be handed out. Prizes include buckles to event winners and stock trailer to the All Around Indian Cowboy or Cowgirl.

Call 5 Star Rodeo at (954) 384-7075. All entrants must have Tribal ID and be a member of EIRA.

Census full page ad

Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday

Someone new, someone special to love is here. We welcome with love, **John Rhodes McKinley Osceola “Kowakoche,”** born to the Otter Clan on Nov. 9, 1999. Love you forever, **Dom, Marlon, Letitia, Denise & Grandma Doris.**

To **Kendrick**, I want you to know that you are so special to me. Nobody in the whole world has given me as much joy as you have. I'll love you no matter what. I hope you have fun being with us. Love always, your **Auntie Adriana.** I love you baby.

To **Kendrick Maxine Taiyah Osceola.** Welcome to the world. You have a very caring and understanding mother. She will take very good care of you. Just want you to know that we all love you and we always will. Love, **Savannah & Shatee.**

Thank you to **Kendrick Maxine Taiyah Osceola** for coming into my life. I want you to now that you will always be my favorite baby girl. Thank you to **Marilyn and Ricky** for bringing her into my life. Love always, **Auntie Bianca.**

Thank you **Daniel Billie** for giving me the good friend and throughout my pregnancy. That wait was well worth it. She's beautiful! I know that you'll be a good uncle to **Kendrick.** Thanks and love. **Kendrick's Mom.**

Congratulations to Marilyn Huggins and Ricky Osceola who just had a beautiful baby girl. Thank you for giving us **Taakoochee.** Love always, **Norman & Kathy.**

Congratulations to Jimmy Osceola & Eleanor B. , the new grand-children of **Kendrick Maxine Taiyah Osceola.** Hope you will enjoy her as much as we will. Love always, **Grandma & Grandpa Huggins.**



Happy 4th Birthday Kaylan Blake Osceola. To my baby girl, you have brought such joy to my life I love you with all my heart, **Love Auntie.**

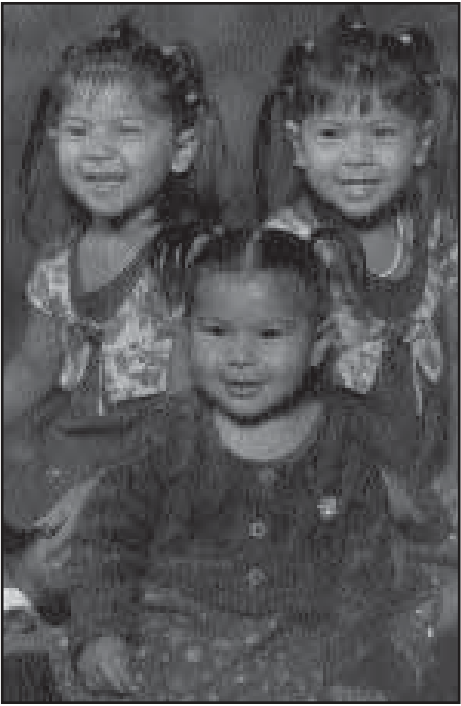


Eli & Levi Harmon announce the birth of their new sister **Jessi Pearl Harmon** born Dec. 21, 1999, weighing 8 lbs., 6 oz. Proud parents are **Donna & Eddie Harmon** of Flagstaff, Ariz. Grandparents are **Gladys Bratcher** of Nashville, TN and **Tom & Faye Harmon** of Lebanon, TN.



Happy Birthday Jade. Love Nanna and Grandpa, Daddy, Uncle Ant & Uncle TJ.

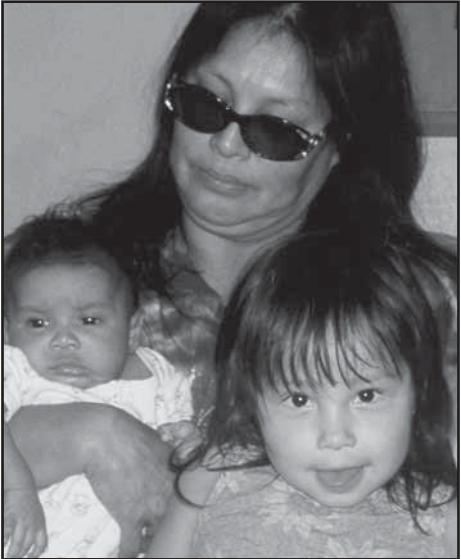
Happy Birthday to a special man in my life. Well, it's been almost 2 years. We've had our bad times, but we had good and great times, too. I want you to know that I respect you and appreciate everything you do for me. You're my best friend, my love and my companion. You're just an amazing guy to be with. You really make me feel a lot better about myself and help me get through another day in this world. I love you **Marlon.** You're my man 4-life. T.B.T.F. Love always, **Carolee Nelson 337.**



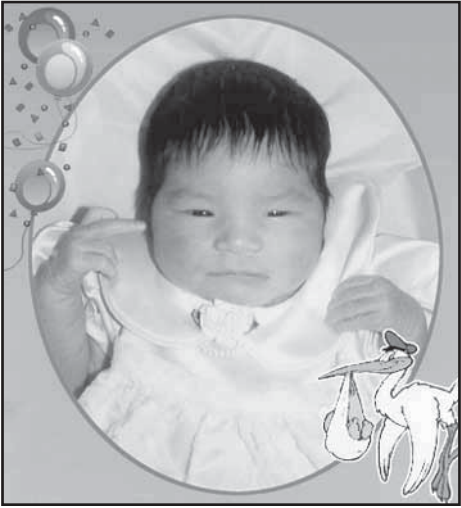
Happy Birthday My Little Girls: Esyra, Ellyse and Joelli Frank, Daddy loves ya's so much. **Esyra and Ellyse** 1-17-97, and **Joelli Frank** 2-16-98.



Jordan Jess Jumper, son of **Rochlle Locust** of Tahlequah, OK and **Andre Jumper** of Hollywood, FL. Grandson of **Mary and Charles Locust** of Tahlequah, OK, **David Jumper** of Hollywood, FL and **Andrea Jumper** of Pawhuska, OK. Wishing Jordan a **Happy 6th Birthday** from all of his family.



Happy 2nd Birthday to Denise Emmanuell Osceola “Melokmehche,” born Jan. 12, 1998. Love you forever, **Dom, Marlon, Letitia, Baby John-John & Grandma Doris.**



Brian Billie & Doreen Cypress are pleased to announce the birth of their little girl, **Asiana Brianna Billie,** born Nov. 30, 1999.

Deadlines

Seminole Tribune

March 3 Issue • Deadline February 18

March 24 Issue • Deadline March 10

April 14 Issue • Deadline March 31

Notices

Tropical Gardening Seminar – March 18 until April 22 at the Agriculture & Extension Education Division located at 3245 College Avenue, Davie. Please call Ellyn Silverstein at 370-3725 for information. Pre-registration is required by March 10, 2000, seating limited.

Gatlinburg Craftsmen's Fair – Feb. 10 - 21 at the Florida State Fair in Tampa, Fla. For information call 423-436-7479, www.craftsmenfair.com.

4th Annual Mustangs & Mustangs ...Legends Havin' Fun – Saturday, March 18. Car and aircraft show at the Fantasy of Flight that is located on exit 21 off of I-4 in Polk City. For info contact Susan at 863-984-3500 ext. 275 or e-mail at susan_tolliver@fantasyofflight.com.

11th Annual Car & Boat Auction – Feb. 26, at 9 a.m. presented by the Salvation Army. For more information call 954-463-3725. At 1901 W. Broward Blvd. in Fort Lauderdale.

Racial Ethnicity Fellowship – Aug. 1, 2000 – July 31, 2001. Application deadline is March 13, 2000. An excellent opportunity to learn more about religion communications. Direct questions to 1-888-CRT-4UMC or REM@umcom.hmc.org.

2001 NCAA Division I Women's Golf Championships – May 23 through May 26, 2001. Tee-off at the Mission Inn Golf & Tennis Resort's "El Campeon" course in Lake County. Fall Preview on Sept. 14 through Sept. 17. For info contact Brent Nelson at 407-648-4900 ext. 17.

FREE Job Training – Feb. 28, the second class of training in the construction trades of air conditioning duct installation and brick laying will begin at L.E.S., 2207 Raleigh Street, Hollywood. At end of training participants will be placed in jobs starting at \$8 per hour. Call 921-2371 for info.

American Women Artists Third Annual Competition – June 1-4 in Santa Fe, NM during The Festival of Women in the Arts. AWA, 533 Onate Pl., Santa Fe, NM 87501.

8th Annual Florida Renaissance Festival – February through March 5 at Quiet Waters Park in Deerfield Beach. For information call 954-776-1642 or 800-3-RENFEST. www.ren.fest.com.

PBR World Class Professional Bull Riders “8” Second Tour – Feb. 18 - 19 at the Miami Arena. 305-530-4400, www.miamiarena.com.

Country Fun Days – Feb. 26 - 27, Lady Lake. Admission is \$5. Call 352-753-2882.

The Broward Stories Project – Stories from the ‘30s and ‘40s – Sat., Feb. 26, 2 p.m. – 3 p.m. at the Hollywood Beach Community and Cultural Center. March 18 at FAU Lifelong Learning Center. For information contact Steven Glassman at 954-357-7532.

18th Annual Protecting Our Children – National American Indian Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect – April 17 – 19 at Holiday Inn City Center in Tucson, AZ. Call 503-222-4044. Protecting Our Children by Building on Our Strength, Success and Wisdom.

Day of Discovery Singers – Sunday, April 23, Cypress Gardens. Easter sunrise service concert. Call 941-324-2111 or 800-282-2123.

Taking America's Past Into the Future – May 14-20, National Trust announces Preservation Week 2000 celebrated. For more info, visit our web site at www.nationaltrust.org. Call Trust Office at 202-588-6141.

Native American HIV/AIDS Grantsman Laboratory – Feb. 25 - 25, at the DoubleTree Guest Suites in Phoenix, AZ. Phone 202-293-7330.

Jobs

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

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

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

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

Position: Education Counselor's Aide
Location: Education (Hollywood)
Opening: January 25, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$7.18 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: Survey Party Chief
Location: Water Resource Management (Big Cypress)
Opening: Jan. 27, 00
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$14.03 per hour plus benefits

Position: Payable Disbursements
Location: Accounting
Opening: Jan. 26, 00
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$8.00 per hour plus benefits

Position: Staff Nutritionist
Location: Health Dept. – Brighton
Opening: Feb. 2, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$30,000/yearly (negotiable) plus benefits

Position: Bookkeeper/Secretary
Location: Preschool Program – Hollywood
Opening: Feb. 1, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$8.70 per hour (negotiable) plus benefits

SEMINOLE TIKI HUTS

954/581-8411

FREE ESTIMATES

Joe Dan Osceola

Convert your background into a Native Wonderland

CUSTOM MADE TIKIS

WOOD DECKING

PATIOS & BARS

NATIVE AMERICAN ARTIFACTS

CALL 954/581-8411 FOR

FREE ESTIMATES

Fax 954/316-5003

Mobile 954/980-7104

5791 S State Rd. 7 • Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33314

Printing • Rubber Stamps • Machines • Furniture
Computer Supplies • Legal Forms • Laminating

OKEECHOBEE OFFICE SUPPLY & FURNITURE, INC.

114 S.W. 5TH AVENUE
OKEECHOBEE, FLORIDA 34974
PHONE (941) 763-0297
1-800-741-3360

Shipping Service Color Copies Free Delivery Fax Service (941) 763-3012



Anhinga Indian Museum and Art Gallery

5791 South State Road 7 (441)
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33314

(954) 581 - 0416
(954) 581 - 8411
Fax:(954) 316 - 5003

Joe Dan and Virginia Osceola

THATCHROOFED HUTS
Chickees

Phone: 954 / 987-3235
941 / 467-7018

JOHNNY TUCKER 3511 N.W. 63rd AVENUE
HOLLYWOOD, FLORIDA 33024

Chickee Baptist Church

64th Ave. and Josie Billie
Hollywood Seminole Reservation

Sunday Morning Worship 10:00 am
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm

Rev Arlen Payne: Pastor
(954) 894-5651

T A M P A



Invites Everyone to Share a Slice of Birthday* Cake at the 6th Annual
Native American Celebration PowWow
Honoring Ruby Tiger Osceola's 104th Birthday
March 16, 17, 18, 19 — 2000
Tampa Seminole Reservation Softball Field
*Birthday Cake Available on Saturday only



ALL DANCERS WELCOME

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
ARNIE GARCIA 813-626-1692
or
KEITH SIMMONS 813-685-5742

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
ADMISSION \$4.00

Schedule
Thursday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am to 9:00pm
Sunday 9:00am to 4:00pm

Guest Performers
Master of Ceremonies: Tom Tointigh
The Plainsmen Host Drum & Dance Group
Joseph Z ~ Native Flutist
BooBooAnne ~ Native Storyteller
Aztec Fire Dancers from Mexico City
Alligator Demonstration

Seminole Clothing Contest
Native American Arts & Crafts
Native American Foods

(Absolutely no drugs or alcohol tolerated on Grounds)

P O W - W O W

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 ficti-
tious name. We have these one-page
forms and can help you fill them out.

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

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



Lee Tiger

American Indian Outreach



HUMOR

Cold Finger

So there I was, Raiford Starke, on stage before a packed house at the Swamp Water Café. It was Saturday and Billie Swamp Safari was really rockin'. Tourists everywhere, checking out the flora and the fauna and the french fries. I was feeling good, famous really. I had two – count 'em – songs on the jukeboxes at Wheeler's in Immokalee and Stephen and Ira's back home. I was known as the guy who jammed with Phish on their big New Year's show. I had everything but my picture in the *Rolling Stone*.

Several women were there to see me. I ignored them and read the crowd. Lots of peculiar accents. People from Denmark, Japan, Germany and Clewiston wandering around the middle of the Everglades looking for something different. I know just what they want.

"Happy Millennium, everybody," I say as I close my eyes and go into a trance-like state and yell out, "Ground Control to Major Tom . . ." and for the next eight minutes and 47 seconds go through a gut-wrenching rendition of David Bowie's "Space Oddity." When I opened my eyes the cafe was as barren as the lunar landscape. Only Nancy Motlow was left. All she ever wants to hear is "Girl From Immokalee."

I looked out the window and saw most of my crowd had moved outside to gather around the gator pit. "What's the big deal?" I yelled into the mike. "You want gators, I'll sing 'Gator Wrestling Nun!'" Nancy got up and walked out. I was mad. I put down my guitar and walked outside and well, wouldn't you know it. It was Chief Jim Billie again.

It's bad enough that he jumped into MY show at the Phish concert, but now he's stolen MY crowd by sitting on a gator's back, in the midst of TV cameras and a hundred spellbound faces. I leaned over and watched the man at work. The Chief has one hand pushing down on a seven foot gator's head. He reaches for the gator's jaws with the other, and the next thing you know there's a whirling blender of gator hide, Seminole jacket and splashing water.

Jim Billie finally emerges, a little dazed but smiling to the cheering audience. I don't think he even got his hair wet. He put his hand in his jacket and quickly exited to a Seminole Police car waiting in the parking lot.

"What was that?" I kept saying. "Was that gator wrestling? What's wrong with you people?"

The crowd quickly dispersed and I heard some scuffling in the gator pit. Keith and Ron Davis were fighting over something, grabbing it out of each other's hands. "I found it," said Ron. "No, I found it," said Keith.

Ed the Boss walked up: "Let's put it on ice and get it to Hollywood Memorial."

I didn't know what they were talking about. I just jumped in my van and followed them to Hollywood Memorial Hospital. There was Chief Billie lying on a gurney in the emergency room. I thought I'd be cool and walked over to give him the ol' high five. "Hey Chief," I said, "slap me – uh – four and a half?!"

I didn't mean to say it like that, but I just didn't expect him to have one of his digits missing when he held his hand up. Right ring finger. Bone sticking out. Blood. I was feeling a little queasy.

Then Chief gave me the finger.

People I am here to tell you it was cold and clammy. A piece of the Chief resting in the palm of my hand. I thought to myself: This is the currency of an alligator wrestler paying his dues. I was trying to think of a rhyme for *dues* when suddenly the TV cameras and reporters come rolling in.

Jim Billie greeted the crowd. "I've got finger food if anybody wants some," he laughed, pointing at me. I held up the finger near my face and smiled and the cameras whirled. Fame is 30 seconds on the evening news and I was a Dan Rather short.

Then someone said, "Hey, why are we using this guy? Let's get the Chief to hold it!"

I gave the finger to the Chief and left the room. A stray dog in the parking lot walked up and kicked me. For no reason.

I could imagine the headlines in the next morning's *Herald*: "Move Over Elian, Move Over Raiford Starke, Here Comes The Finger." That's all anyone cares about. Even those hippie girls who used to ask me how it felt to be on stage with Phish, don't care anymore. "Tell us about the Finger, Raiphord," is all I get anymore. After 4 ½ weeks, I take my hat off.

So here I am again, Raiford Starke., the Maytag Repairman of Rock n' Roll, sitting on a worn out couch and staring at a phone that never rings, the "fickle finger of fame" having passed me by. "Hello, I'm Mary Matalin, and welcome to Crossfire," blares my old black-and-white TV. "Tonight's topic: Is media coverage of The Finger getting out of hand?"

In quiet desperation, I get my guitar, and drive out to the edge of Starkansaw, past the factory district, near the red light district, to Alligator Andy's. Maybe Kilmo will let me jam with the guys. As I approached the club, the doorman stops me. "Sorry, Raiford. That'll be a \$50 cover charge."

"Fifty dollars!" I say. "For what?!"

He points to the marquee. "TONITE ONLY: THE FINGER!!" I forked over the half clam and walked in. The place was packed. Standing room only. But there is an eerie silence. The crowd is in rapt attention staring at the stage. It is very dimly lit except for a lonely spotlight shining on a stool at center stage. On top of the stool is a jar with a pale, gray, severed finger suspended in formaldehyde. Over back in the shadows Kilmo and the boys were lightly playing "Freebird."

Chief Billie was nowhere in sight. I look over to my right and there's ol' Pete from Sunset Beach standing beside me. "You might as well face it, buddy," he said, "Jim Billie has more fame in his right ring finger than you'll ever have in your entire life."

— *Raiford Starke is a folk legend from unincorporated Broward County.*



Seminole Adults

*Photos of Older Tribal members
Traditional Dress Preferred
But not required*

Seminole Children

*Photos of Young Tribal members
Traditional Dress Preferred
But not required*

Seminole Sports

*Photos of Tribal member
Participating in a Sporting Event:
High School and College accepted*

Seminole Nature/Wildlife

*Photos of Animals and Landscapes
of the Reservation or Everglades*

SEMINOLE



PHOTO SHOOTOUT

Deadline April 14th, 2000 • Tribal Members Only
For More Info Call 954. 967.3416

Osceola Sisters Lead Sheridan Squad To Victory

HOLLYWOOD — The sights and echoing sounds of screaming fans and spectators set the mood for the Sheridan Lady Sharks and Miami Christian Magnot Catholic School as they battled it out in the Basketball Conference Champ finals for the right to advance to the Distirct 15, 1A Championship game.

Mercedes Osceola and Tasha Osceola, sisters and teammates on the Sheridan Hills Christian School Sharks, lead their team to a 55-14 victory. Mercedes scored 20 points and added ten steals and four assists. Tasha added eight poitns.

Coach Eric Spee was very excited to see his team make it to the Conference, and commented how Tasha and Mercedes have been excellent throughout the season.

“When the game is dragging and the team is just not producing, I put Tasha into the game,” Spee said. “She has the capability to bring energy to the game. And “Mercedes really puts the ball on the court for her team.”

The Sharks, who are sixth in the state and fourth in the county, took the conference by storm without any losses.

Spee also commented on how Mercedes’ talent has remarkably improved within the last year. “When she came to me a year ago she was just beginning to form into a player,” Spee said. “And now this year she has formed into a complete player making



Mercedes Osceola led team into Conference finals.



Mercedes takes a foul on this play, but scored 20.

the starting team.”

It was easy to see the significant impact the two Seminole members had in the Shark’s overall season.. Mercedes, who is point guard for the Sharks is second highest scorer in the state, scoring and average of 19 points per game. And Tasha (guard), who is the only seventh grader on the varsity team, utilizes her quickness to pick up an average of 9 steals and five 5 assists per game.

They helped in sealing the Crusador’s fate during the last finals, with and overall score of Sharks 55 Crusaders 14.

Sheridan Hills Christian certainly has been blessed by the basketball skills of Mercedes and Tasha, and it seems the trend will continue with the defensive play of the youngest sister JoJo Osceola. Playing on the junior varsity team, JoJo has attracted the attention of not only the opposing schools, but also the referees who officiate the games.

After a late season game one referee came up to Virginia Osceola and raved about her level of play. “I think she had nine steals in one half alone!” he exclaimed.

According to first-year coach, Kelly Kouba, JoJo averages 9.5 points a game and “about 15-20 steals a game.” “Yeah, I know. It’s crazy. She’s real focused and very aggressive,” said Kouba.

Kid-Talk Reduces Fear Of Hospital Practices

If most adults are apprehensive about a visit to the hospiotal, imagine what it’s like for small children who associate hospitals with loud sirens and big needles. With millions of children heading to hospitals each year, Miami Children’s Hospital (MCH) has a solurtion to ease their fears – talk to your child in a language they can understand! To help parents and the medical community, Child Life Specialist at MCH have developed a list of commonly used medical words and their alternative “kid-speak” version.

“Medical terminology can sometimes be very confusing and sound scary to children. Using

gentle, child-tailored terms can help increase children’s understanding and make their hospitalization or medical experiences less threatening,” said Sherisse Wormell, Child Life Specialist at MCH.

Child Life Specialists help teach children and their families about hospital procedures to reduce the fear of the unknown. They provide age-appropriate explanations to accurately depict what will happen to the child before, during and after procedures. This method ensures that every aspect of a child’s experience is more comfortable.

Your Guide To Target Heart Rate

HOLLYWOOD -- The target heart rate is the heart rate during that the participant should try to maintain range exercise.

Maximal Heart Rate = 220 - age.

Intensity: 60 – 90 percent of Maximal Heart Rate.

Low Intensity: 35 – 60 percent of Heart Rate Max.

Moderate Intensity: 60 – 80 percent of Heart Rate Max.

High Intensity: 80 – 90 percent of Heart

	Rate Max.
25 years old,	127 – 156 beats per minute
30 years old,	124 – 152 beats per minute
35 years old,	120 – 148 beats per minute
40 years old,	117 – 144 beats per minute
45 years old,	114 – 140 beats per minute
50 years old,	111 – 136 beats per minute
55 years old,	107 – 132 beats per minute
60 years old,	104 – 128 beats per minute
65 years old,	101 – 124 beats per minute
70 years old,	98 – 120 beats per minute
75 years old,	94 – 116 beats per minute
80 years old,	91 – 112 beats per minute
85 years old,	88 – 108 beats per minute

Patient Education Meeting Held

HOLLYWOOD -- The following is the material presented during the Patient Education Meeting held Dec. 8.

In attendance: Toni Taglione, Wendy Johns, Anne DiCello, Kerri Cook, Lawanna Niles and Jennifer Tjong.

The meeting began by recapping the events of November and the individual projects of each member. The upcoming December and January events and topics were then discussed. These included: Diabetic Retinopathy, National Eye Care Month and National Birth Defects Prevention Month. Wendy began her in-service on Maternal Child Health.

Health Educators:

Toni – Toni is covering for both the Hollywood and Big Cypress reservations where she spends three and two days a week, respectively. In the past month Toni has continued with the water aerobics at Memorial West as well as the walking group on Monday mornings. This month she also started the Fun & Fitness afterschool program which will be held on Mondays from 3 – 5 p.m., at the Seminole Recreation Center. An article introducing this program was submitted to the Tribune. Toni also gave a lesson on personal hygiene at D.S.O and an exercise and healthy heart lesson to the preschool classes. Toni will arrange for Dr. Grover (ophthalmologist) to speak on Diabetic Retinopathy for January’s Diabetic day in Hollywood and will submit an article to the Tribune. Also this month the mobile mammogram van came to Hollywood and seven women were given mammograms. The van will be going to Big Cypress on Monday Dec. 13.

Wendy – In the past month Wendy has continued her walk and lunch group and this Saturday will be holding a community garage for fundraising for the March of Dimes Walk-A-Thon in March. Wendy submitted an article for the *Tribune* on World AIDS day consisting of the general statistics and HIV information. The *Tribune* however suggested material more gauged toward the Seminole population. Wendy has also been pushing for a nutrition curriculum in the Brighton preschool, however has not been too successful due to teachers’ lack of interest. Wendy will also try to get a speaker for January’s Eye Disease Month. Wendy began her staff in-service on Maternal Child Health. She passed out check off sheets which she hopes will be put in the charts under the education section. These charts list the necessary preparations and topics that must be taught and breaks them down

into the appropriate trimester. Wendy, in conjunction with Anne and Kerri, mentioned the possibility of forming a new-mother support group or holding parenting classes at the clinic. Wendy also mentioned preparing new mother care packages. Wendy will continue her in-service next month at the next PED meeting.

Nutrition:

Anne – Anne started work Nov. 1, and will be covering all three reservations. In the past month Anne has begun her one-on-one counseling sessions. Anne has also been to the preschool for a lesson on the Food Pyramid and used a video with her discussion. Today was Anne’s first Diabetic Day in Hollywood and she made a few changes with food choices and played Nutrition Bingo. Anne mentioned the possibility of growth charts being put into the patient chart in order to counsel children on a more preventative level. Anne also has experience in Maternal Child Health and will work in collaboration on starting a new mother support group. Anne will also be working with the Fun & Fitness program.

Dental:

Kerri: Kerri suggested getting Dr. Grover back in January and also contacting Broadcasting to air his segment from last year during Eye Care Month. Kerri also talked about the lack of referrals that Dental has been receiving from health education on new diabetics. She explained the proper referral system (health ed. will make a copy for dental) and suggested writing a memo to remind clinic staff on the importance of dental health for diabetic patients. Kerri has a lot of insight into Maternal Child Health from her own experience and assisted Wendy with the in-service. Kerri, because of her positive experience with the parenting classes she attended at the clinic, strongly suggested bringing those classes back.

CHR:

Lawanna - Since Lawanna transports many new mothers she will help make sure the women will keep their appointments and will relay the importance of education throughout their pregnancies.

Family Services:

Jennifer – Jennifer gave the DM Day lesson in November on Family Support. She held a discussion and passed out patient information literature. Jennifer explained the on-call situation of Family Services as we discussed the importance of Domestic Violence and Drug/Alcohol abuse on maternal child health.

Diabetes Meeting Spurs Action

By Michael James BRIGHTON — Health Educator Wendy Johns reported that 18 community members stayed after the Jan. 7 community meeting to have their blood sugar levels checked. In addition, 67 other people have signed up for the Brighton chapter of Weight Watchers.

The increase of health awareness came after officials from Indian Health Services alerted the community that Brighton has a very high rate of diabetes, one of the highest incident rates in the country.

According to Johns, the debilitating effects of diabetes can be postponed for life if a person takes personal control of the disease. Johns added that diabetes is unique in that it is one of the few diseases whose outcome lies entirely in controlling it. It is relatively simple to do, she said, especially when weighed against the devastating consequences of ignoring it.

“Some people have the attitude that it’s going to happen anyway,” said Johns, “which translates into inaction on the part of some individuals who have the disease.

“It’s true there is a genetic predisposition for diabetes. We have entire families here who are diabetic. But, a lot of diabetes here stems from obesity and a sedentary lifestyle.”

For Johns, a look back in time to when diabetes was

unheard of may be just what the doctor ordered.

“In the past, Indian people ate lean meat from game and they grilled it. If they went somewhere they

strict adherence to a diet and exercise regimen combined with oral medications is all that it takes to manage some cases of diabetes.

If you would like



Brighton residents took notice of the diabetes alert, and are taking action.

walked or paddled a canoe or rode a horse. It’s too easy go to drive-though today and get 60 grams of fat in your lunch,” she said.

Johns doesn’t advocate walking or paddling a canoe to Okeechobee while you run down wild meat, but the analogy is a simple one that can be taken to the grocery store and most restaurants. Select lean cuts of meat that are roasted or grilled, avoid too much fat, stay away from sugar, and enjoy the vegetables. You don’t have to kill yourself exercising either. Just 30 minutes of brisk walking three times a week is considered sufficient for most people.

According to Johns,

more information you can call the field office and ask for the health educator’s office. A diabetic support group meets on the last Tuesday of each month.

The support group, which has been meeting since October, offers a different activity and lunch each month.

If you would like to learn more about self checking your blood sugar levels or would like to have it checked you may do so at the field office every Tuesday morning between 8-9 a.m. Finger sticking for blood sugar measurement have also been made possible at hot meals since Jan. 26.

National Eye Care Month

January was National Eye Care Month. Diabetic eye disease is a group of eye problems that can cause a loss in vision. If not treated, vision loss can range from being mild to severe with a chance of blindness. There are different types of diabetic eye diseases. They include cataracts, glaucoma and diabetic retinopathy.

Cataract and glaucoma are less common than retinopathy, however still are twice as likely to effect a diabetic person compared to a non-diabetic person. They can also occur at a much earlier age. A cataract is when the lens of the eye becomes cloudy and this cloudiness results in vision problems. Cataracts can usually be removed by surgery.

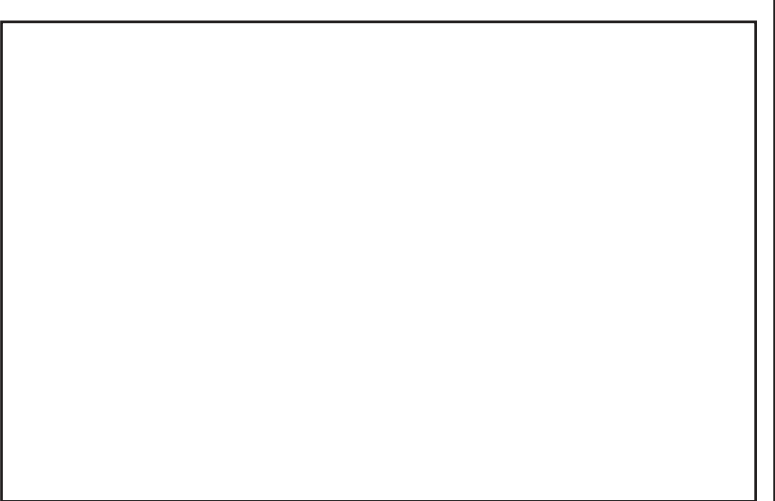
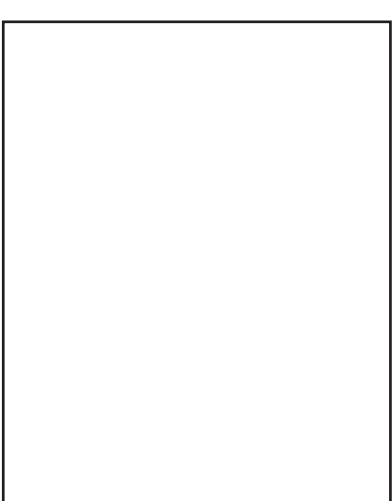
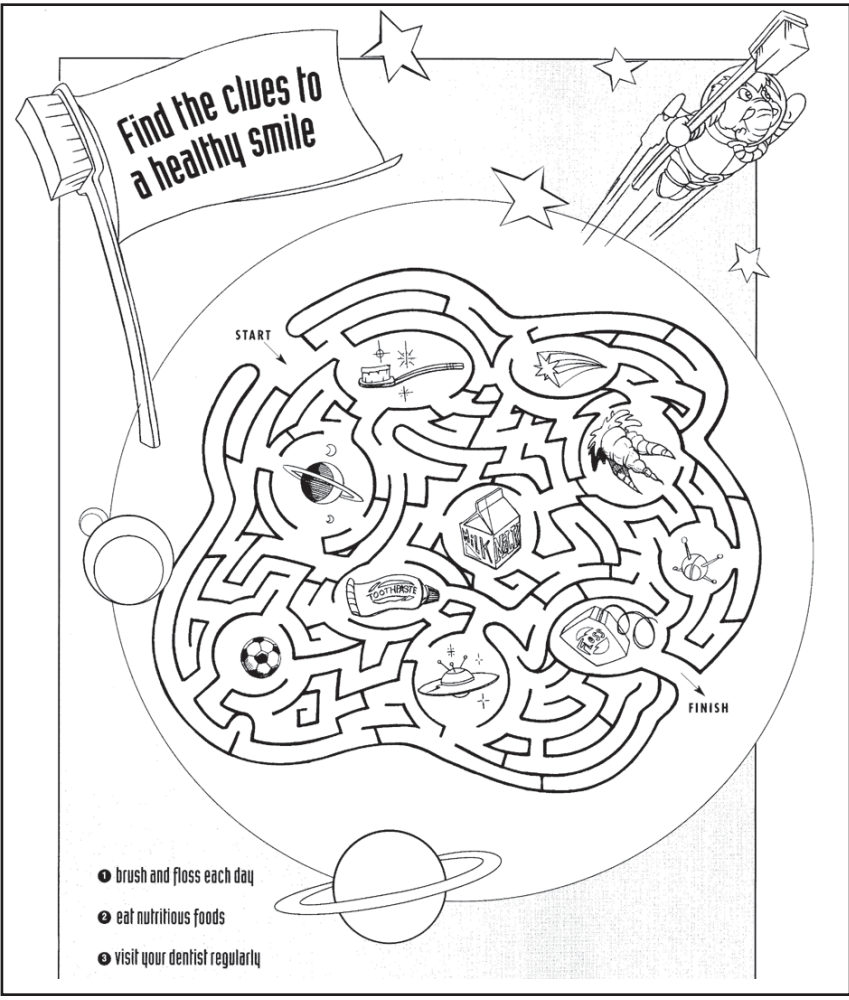
Glaucoma results when the pressure in the eye becomes too great and damages the optic (eye) nerves. This is treated with medications and sometime, surgery.

The most common eye disease that affects people with diabetes is diabetic retinopathy. A person with diabetes is 25 times more likely to suffer from retinopathy than someone without diabetes. Retinopathy involves damage to the blood vessels that supply the retina. The retina is the back layer of the eye that tells the brain what it sees. In the beginning, when these blood vessels become damaged, they can swell up and fluid may leak into the eye. As the disease progresses, new blood vessels will form. These blood vessels can break easily and cause blood to enter the eye.

One of the most important things to know about retinopathy is that there may not be any early symptoms and it is not painful. For this reason, an annual dilated eye exam should be performed by an eye care professional. This is a painless test that can help

the doctor to better see the retina and decide whether or not treatment is needed. Once symptoms begin to occur, however they should be reported as soon as possible. Symptoms may include: blurry/cloudy vision, loss of side vision, seeing spots, or not seeing colors as bright as they normally appear.

Retinopathy cannot be prevented in the diabetic population, however its progression can be slowed and kept to a minimum. Because retinopathy occurs when sugar is at high levels, taking the right steps to control is important. These include exercising, watching your diet, taking your medications and seeing your eye doctor for an annual dilated eye exam once a year.



Beautiful Bedrooms for Little Girls and Little boys (to grow with)

We design your furniture with you, we build it for you;
& we delicately handpaint each piece to match your colors and fabrics with uncompromising quality!

(954) 967-9852 little pishers
Showroom: 5844 Stirling Rd., Hwd.,FL 33021
(1 blk of 441 in the Poinciana Plaza)
www.littlepishers.msn

Seminole Owned and Operated

Joe Bowers, Mechanic, 1922-2000

By Charles Flowers

BIG CYPRESS – The snowy egrets had taken to roost. Along the old canal next to Snake Road, the bravest cattle lowered themselves into the cool February water to munch on water plants. And across from B.C. Cemetery, Hamlin oranges were ripening as far as the eye could see.

It was a normal day on the Rez, except another Seminole was gone. Joe Bowers, Jr., who would have been 78 this June, was born in 1922. He died on the last day of January.

Mr. Bowers saw the worst of reservation life – days of isolation and poverty. And also some of the best. His life spanned the new millennium, and he saw children, and grand-children by the dozen.

His survivors included 26-grand-children and 14 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his wife, Ginnie; sons Eugene, Truman and David Bowers; daughters Evelyn, Patricia and Nadine Bowers; a stepson, Neal Bowers; two stepdaughters, Gwendolyn Bowers and Cynthia Billie; a brother Tom Bowers, and

sister Lottie Shore

“Amazing Grace” flowed to “Rock of Ages,” to a popular tune from a by-gone era. A gesture of the thumb from Howard Micco pulled family members to the empty front pew. In the stillness, a woman walked to place a red rose on the open casket of Joe Bowers.

Junior Battiest, out of bed after four days with the flu, sang “Just A Closer Walk With Thee,” and “When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder.” Other songs were sung in Miccosukee.

Rev. Billie said, “He was close

to my age, but older. We have teased one another and all that, from back in the ‘40s...But today he has gone to be with the Lord.”

Manuel “Mondo” Tiger spoke next.

“God broke our hearts again to prove to us He only takes the very best,” Tiger said. “Cheer up, he’s in the hand of God now. Sho naa bish. Amen.”

Mitchell Cypress had some great memories of Joe, who apprenticed the young Cypress by taking him for a ride in his truck and saying he wanted to ask him a few questions.

“I thought he was going to ask me, ‘How many miles can you walk back?’” Cypress told the packed church. But Joe Bowers was anything but cruel to kids.

“He was a self-taught mechanic,” Cypress, who worked with him for 15 years, said. And if any evidence were required of Bowers’ proficiency, he added: “Once I saw him take apart an entire bulldozer down to the screws and put it back together. I asked him how he could do that?”

“I just took a wild guess,” Bowers told him, grinning.

“He challenged the challenge,” Mitchell Cypress said. “And that’s one of the things he taught me.”

Cypress continued: “He always depended on younger generations to carry on. I thought he was just nagging me because I had a hangover – that



Stephen and Paul Bowers help bury patriarch.



MANY KIN: Members of the Bowers family gather at B.C. Cemetery to pay last respects to their family patriarch.

Remembering Noah Billie

For my Uncle:

My name is Charles A. Osceola and I would like to tell you about my uncle.

Noah Billie was a man whom I shared many of my younger years with. He helped provide, he helped support, and he helped teach. I remember my grandmother bought me a pair of shoes that I just didn’t want to wear. They were just ugly. So one hot day Noah and a friend took me to someplace where there were handicapped people. As I sat and waited for something to happen, Noah and his friend brought with them two gentlemen in wheelchairs. One of the gentlemen asked me to stand on my feet and jump. So I did. After I heard one of these gentlemen say, “he is blessed.” As I was wondering how I was blessed, he removed the blanket covering his legs revealing two metal pegs that were somehow bolted to his kneecaps. I remember what he said like it was two seconds ago. “You are blessed.”

Of course, most people who knew Noah would know that he went to Vietnam. He used to tell me stories of the war. How it was a place for no man, woman or child. Noah Billie to me was a man who had his faults just like the rest of us. A few years ago, he asked me to remember his faults, but don’t follow them. He always knew how to tell you his heart was heavy without saying anything like that.

Noah once said, “Some people are smart as hell, but with no common sense.” That seems to be the simplest way to ever say it, and it was he, Noah Billie. May you have peace.

I would like to present this poem inspired by my Uncle and it is dedicated to the veterans of war:

For The Vets

*No thought in my head
Knows the number you’ve seen dead
The screams of men, the sound of fear;
The friends you’ve lost far and near:
Sleepless nights, filled with fear;
The perfect place for the bugs they eat.
Sometimes you cry, sometimes you pray,
Wondering and thinking if this is your last day.*

*I’ve seen our vets; I’ve looked in their eyes,
I’ve seen their pain, but I saw no lies,
Who’s to lie about war?
Is that what they almost died for?*

*D-day, Guam, the stormy beaches of Normandy,
The freedom they fought for will always mean more to me.
My respect for our vets is more than the Sahara’s sands,
So between you and I, we’ll always shake hands
Some of our vets have settled for an alcoholic thirst, but stop and think,
Stand you and I on top of water and the both of us would sink
Only one person would not sink, and he was not a vet,
And he sure isn’t you or I so put your finger down and don’t you forget.*

*The world wars and Vietnam seem worlds apart
But my people have fought their own World Wars
And they’re always in my heart.
The vets are my heroes and there is no dispute,
And when the Anthem plays, it’s you whom I salute
This is especially for the vets, gone or alive, young or old,*

— My name is Charles A. Osceola, and this is some of what I was told.

Noah

Continued from page 1

“The true history of the Seminole people is often misrepresented in standard museum interpretations,” said Bond. “Because this is a living culture, we’re talking about people who are alive and changing, we’re trying to provide a forum for the Seminoles to tell their own story. Noah Billie symbolizes what is unknown.”

He said that since Mr. Billie’s work has not been seen except by visitors to Seminole Tribal museums, this exhibit will reach a wider audience than the painter was able to find during his life-time.

“His work is maybe the picture that speaks

thousands of words,” Bond said. “We, in our partnership with the Seminole people, believe our mission is to let that story be told.”

The St. Petersburg Museum exhibition runs in conjunction with Discover Native America, the Seminole Tribal-sponsored powwow, film and music festival, held at Eckerd College here next month. The address of the Museum is 335 2nd Ave. NE, on the St. Petersburg waterfront. The show dates are Feb. 18 through March 31. A special artist’s reception will be held at 6 p.m. on Feb. 25; all tribal members are invited.

— *The Seminole Tribune is planning a Special Section on Noah Billie’s life and art which will appear in the next issue of the newspaper.*

The Seminole Tribe of Florida Presents: Steve Mizerak’s Senior Masters

March 15th-19th, 2000



\$50,000

Four Points Hotel (Sheraton)
7401 E. Hillsborough Avenue
Tampa, FL 33610
Phone (813) 626-0999

9 Ball Race to 11
Double Elimination
Finals: 1 set to 13

Adjacent To:
The Seminole Indian Casino
Bingo, Poker, & Video Gaming

Players Meeting on Wed. March 15th at 11:00 am. Play starts at 1:00 pm.
Entry Fee: \$300.00 Gold Tour Card: \$25.00

***Check or Money Order Payable to:**
Steve Mizerak Promotions, Inc.
1243 52nd Street, Suite #1
MANGONIA PARK, FL 33407-2247
Ph:561-840-0048 Fax: 561-840-9114
website: www.themiz.com
email: Miz9Ball@aol.com

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

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

E-mail

Continued from page 1

and found your site to have all the information that he could have wanted. The photos are beautiful! Your craftwork is stunning! What a beautiful history and culture! Thanks again!

Loriann Granados
Lorianne@mneta.net

Editor:

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

Don Fleming
Wales
PatFleming@care4free.net

Tell Grey to check out the Seminole Tribe website at www.seminoletribe.com or take out an international subscription to the Seminole Tribune. Call Dan at 1-800-683-7800 ext 1266 and he’ll set you up

James Billie:

Just a note of support and to tell you that Paul and I wish you a speedy recovery. We appreciate your yearly Christmas greetings, and were sorry not to have received our usual card this year. We enjoy your new photo each year. Paul has finished the Gamble Rogers album. He has been in the process of working with Jim Ballew’s family on preserving his songs and music, as well. Take care! Hope to see you, soon!

Paul and Susan Kay Butterfield
susan.kay.butterfield@mpinet.net

Send us your new address and we’ll put you back on the Christmas list!

Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Seminole Tribe of Florida and some very special people who have supported my efforts to become the 1999 World Armwrestling Champion. In Dec. 1999, I traveled to Tokyo, Japan, as a member of Team USA, to compete in the 20th World Armwrestling Championship and became the Ladies World Champion in my class.

Being the only Native American on the USA team and the only one to compete at this world tournament, I was very proud to represent all Seminoles as well as all Native Americans.

I would like to extend a very special thank you to Chief James Billie, President Mitchell Cypress, Moses Jumper, Jr., Max Osceola, Jr., Jeanette and Danielle Cypress. Thank you for believing in me. You will always have a special place in my heart.

Cynthia Yerby
Wolf, Oklahoma
1999 World Armwrestling Champion
Team USA, Tokyo, Japan

Editor:

I want to enter a subscription to the Seminole Tribune. I have been reading the series on forts by Vida Volkert, and I love them. They are full of facts and really bring the history of the Seminoles and the state of Florida into focus. I have read Fort Dallas, Fort Lauderdale, Fort Center and Fort Christmas. If I have missed any, please send me the back issues and I will be happy to pay for them.

Calvin De Viney
Miami, FL

You have missed Fort King and Fort Brooke. Those editions are in the mail. Next up is Fort Pierce, which you will receive with the start of your subscription.

A Moment In Time With Happy Jones

Meet Happy Jones, 73. Her story begins with her family tree, now pay attention. “I was born July 15, 1927, the seventh of nine children. My parents were Sam and Mussie Jones. There were five daughters, Faye, Annie, twins Ada and Arlita and myself. The sons were Willie, Doc, Ollie and Harold.

My mother’s parents were Sally Parker and Billie Smith. They married and had five children: two girls -- Cully Smith-who never married, and Mercy Smith, who later married Sam Jones. Mercy and Sam had three sons, Dick, Morgan and Tom Smith.

Happy’s earliest memories at a place when she was four years old. She lived at a place called 6 mile which was located east of Kenansville. Happy explains that during this time her family had never had a means of making cash money so they lived off the land as means of survival. “Some of the food in our diet consisted of gopher turtle, pork, venison, curlew, swamp cabbage, Indian potatoes and pumpkins. Corn was a staple from which we made sofkee.”

Later her family sold pine resin for three cents a pound -- the first time her family ever made money. Another way in which her family ventured into money was during grape season they would gather the wild grapes to make wine and later sell them, specifically on Fridays, to the black people at the turpentine camps.

Life was challenging. “There were no automobiles back then so we often had to walk, sometimes for miles. There were times though when we would ride horses and sometimes even a wagon.” However in later years her family acquired an old Model A flat bed truck with no top. “If it rained we would get wet and if it broke down the family would repair it ourselves.”

“We all lived in the chickee, we had no stove, no refrigerator, radio or television.” This sparked a familiar account of the past. With no radio the families were unaware of approaching weather. “When I was five or six years old a hurricane came upon us with no warning. All we had was a canvas tarpaulin for shelter. My father gathered the family under the tarp, which we secured by holding or sitting on the edges. As we all huddled together underneath the tarp, water came up under the tent, we were on the highest point of land my father could find.”

The family eventually moved to Mud Slough which was approximately six miles east of Fort Drum. Happy explains this as better times. “We had plenty to eat, we had lots of hogs, we had a horse and a boat. We hunted hogs for meat, sometimes the hogs would sleep with us at night under the chickee. We also had a garden where we grew lots of vegetables, we lived a long time at this camp.”

Happy describes a slough in back of the family camp with a long narrow foot bridge, where they would wash their clothes and bathe. The camp was in a cabbage hammock, the ground was high enough to keep dry. “These were some of the good times” she says.

Happy remembers the Great Depression as “hard times” and there were people everywhere going hungry. “This is when I learned that all white people were bad. They would butcher a calf and give us some of the meat because they knew times were hard for us. Some of those who helped us I remember were Milton Lee and his son Lynn, Trent Holmes, Teet Alderman, Cecil Holmes, John Norman, Broad Cox and Street Hair.” In 1955 we moved to Brighton.

Happy shares memories of her years living at Scott’s farm on U.S. 68 just west of Fort Pierce. “I went to work in the fields and made good money. One day when I came home from work there was no one home. It was Friday and payday, I had this money to spend but no way to get into town. My Uncle Dick had gone hunting, so I stole his Model A Ford and drove it to Fort Pierce and parked it near a



Brighton’s Happy Jones shares memories of survival.

grocery store, and of course I did not have a driver’s license. I was just drinking, smoking and living wild.” “That day I found my cousins Annie Mae, Dolly Mae and Agnes Hall at a bar, we had fun that day just eating, drinking and later we went to a picture show.”

In those days Happy explains they would never bank their money. If it was to be saved they would put it in a container, such as a fruit jar with a water proof lid, find a safe place and bury it, all the time making sure no one was around. “My mama buried some silver money in a glass jar. One day I followed her to the spot where she had hidden the money jar. When my Mama went to visit an Aunt who was sick at Oscar Hall’s camp, I went to the jar, dug it up and stole the money. I put the empty jar back in the hole and covered it up. There was probably more than three hundred dollars that she had saved. I took the money and bought a black 1938 Ford and later traded Willie Jones for another one, a newer model. I was making money and had my own wheels so if I wasn’t working, I was mostly lone.”

Happy recalls a time when her mother and Arlita had to go and look for he. She had been gone for two days. When she finally came home she says that her Mother said nothing to her. “She was just afraid that she wouldn’t find me alive.”

During the war Happy recalls an unusual experience, one that she will never forget. “I was 15 or 16 years old during the war and I remember one day going to Fort Pierce and when I got in my car to go home it wouldn’t start. There was a young man who helped me, he was a sailor in the United States Navy and his ship had docked nearby. I remember that whenever his ship would be in port, I would drive into town to see him.”

“These are just some of the memories of a part of my life when I was very young, and maybe a little wild.”

Today Happy still resides on the Brighton Reservation.



Happy shows off details of her necklace.

Seminoles At Saddlebrook

ORLANDO -- Saddlebrook Resort, better known for its golf and tennis clinics was the center of Indian activity Jan. 21.

Just off the tennis courts was a roaring bonfire amongst teepees. Men throwing tomahawks and testing their skills with bows, arrows and lances. There were Seminole doctors next to Korean doctors staying warm around campfires. There were even Cuban “mountain men” with Hawks and panther cubs.

A pow wow in Saddlebrook? Close. Actually it was a conference hosted by Ferring Pharmaceuticals of Copenhagen, Denmark, with 600 doctors, gynecologists and embryologists with practices in the fertility area, from 37 counties having the “authentic” experience of their lives.

According to Anja Linder, Ferring’s International Product manager, while making plans to hold the conference in the Tampa area, she consulted with Peter Kruck from Sweden, and asked him to research for something different, something authentic something original from the Tampa Bay area. Peter said “It’s either pirates or Seminoles.” Anja’s quick reply was, “Fine we’ll take the Seminoles!”

“That’s where we find Lee” said Ralph U. Diehl, Area Director.

“Lee” being Seminole Tribal tourism development coordinator, Lee Tiger. According to Lee, “Someone from Seminole Tribe suggested that I could help them coordinate such an event. It was a subcontracted effort by Tribal members and just everybody we could think of to help bring together one of the most complete dinner theme partys I’ve ever seen. I’ve never done anything like it. It was



Johan Rickon of Copenhagen came for the party.

pretty elaborate! Down to spear throwing, hatchet throwing, arts and crafts, dancing, and alligator wrestling. It was one of the most complete and elaborate displays of Seminole and intertribal culture as well.”

“With the world interest in nature based / eco tourism and the interest people from around the world have for American Indian culture this kind of dinner theme party idea can come more to the front ,” said Tiger.

“I think it was a great success. It looks like nothing’s damaged. The tent is still in place,” said Anja. “But there’s one mean alligator left,” said Ralph Diehl, nodding towards the alligator that was being kept warm by a large outdoor gas heater. “Then there’s the snake and the panther.”



Inter-tribal dancers entertained the participants coming to the conference.



DOCTORS WARM-UP: Bonfire attracts healers from Korea, Boston and the Seminole Tribe.

DNA

Continued from page 1

“Diabetes: Notes From Indian Country,” produced by the Center for American Indian Research and Education.

Famed Director Annie Frazier Henry will take center stage on **Wednesday March 1,** (7:30 p.m.) to screen four of her films: “Legends: The Story of Siwash Rock,” “Singing Our Stories,” “Totem Talk,” and “Ladies Of The Inlet.”

On **Thursday March 2,** the festival moves to the classic Beach Theatre on St. Petersburg Beach for the Florida premiere of the feature film “Unbowed” by director Nancy Rossow.

Friday March 3, the robust character actor Gary Farmer, star of “Smoke Signals,” “Powwow Highway,” “Dead Man” and many other native classics, will present two of his directorial offerings: “The Gift,” a cross-country look at the reverence for corn in tribal culture and “What The Eagle Hears,” a story about the struggles of three native women whose lives are challenged by physical disabilities, abuse, personal tragedy and disillusionment.

(Farmer, a blues music enthusiast, will also play harmonica Saturday night (March 4) at the Discover Native America Music night at Ferg’s Sports Emporium in the St. Petersburg Dome District.)

Saturday March 4, will feature three



“Smoke Signals” Gary Farmer at DNA.

important film fest sessions: Much honored First Nations director Barb Cranmer will present a program that will include “T’Eina: The Rendering Of Wealth” and “Qatuwas: People Gathering Together” at 11 a.m.; and from 2-4:30 p.m., American Indian Film Institute founder/director Michael Smith will present the world premiere of excerpts from the 24th American Indian Film festival, filmed last year in San Francisco with the support of Seminole Chairman James Billie; At 7:30 p.m. writer-director James Fortier will show his award-winning documentary “Alcatraz Is Not An Island,” preceded by a performance from the traditional native woman’s singing group Ulali.

Following Danny Jumper’s portion of the **Sunday March 5** program (1 p.m.) WMNF radio personality Jacob Eagle Eyes will host a series of Native American Music Videos, including Chief Jim Billie’s “Ways Of The Glades,” Robbie Robertson’s “Making Noise; A Native American Journey With Robbie Robertson” and “Things We Do,” featuring the native blues band Indigenous. Florida filmmakers Leslie Gaines and Stephen

Robitaille will also screen their recent documentary “Calusa Indian reenactment,” which includes Seminole Tribal members Vanessa Frank, Samuel Tommie and others in the cast.

A website with more detail about “Native Visions, Native Voices” films and presenters can be reached through either www.seminoletribe.com/calendar/dna.shtml or www.eckerd.edu/film/web_program.html For more information, please call film festival director Dr. Catherine Griggs at 727-864-8297

Casino

Continued from page 1

pull-tab electronic gaming machines, lightning bingo and a card room, employs 230 people. The second phase of the project – scheduled to open before Christmas – will add 70,000 square feet of space for gaming, a 5-star restaurant and a four-level parking garage. The final phase of the casino – projected as two-and-a-half years away – will include a show stage theater and a resort hotel. When fully operational, Coconut Creek Seminole Gaming is expected to employ nearly 900 people.

Casino officials say that the official “grand opening,” celebration will be made sometime after the completion of the second phase.

“It has been a real pleasure working with the Seminole Tribe and with Max Osceola,” a delighted Goldsmith said as he watched visitors enter the casino. “We worked hard to answer any question or concern that anyone had about this facility.

“We’ve been considered a bedroom community of Fort Lauderdale for years. Now, I believe we have a facility that will become a tourist magnet. In fact, I now call this casino ‘Downtown.’ This is going to become the center of action. It will benefit everyone in this community. We’re real pleased and excited about the future.”

The casino is the fifth Seminole Tribal gaming facility, joining similar operations in Hollywood, Immokalee, Tampa and Brighton. But, in many ways, it is a first for the Tribe. Jo-Lin Osceola, Coconut Creek Casino Manager, explained.

“It’s really a big step for the Tribe in that this is the first time the Tribe is

and the community. We’re thankful we finally got this facility open.”

The Tribal Casino, which features about 500 pull-tab electronic gaming machines, lightning bingo and a card room, employs 230 people. The second phase of the project – scheduled to open before Christmas – will add 70,000 square feet of space for gaming, a 5-star restaurant and a four-level parking garage. The final phase of the casino – projected as two-and-a-half years away – will include a show stage theater and a resort hotel. When fully operational, Coconut Creek Seminole Gaming is expected to employ nearly 900 people.

Casino officials say that the official “grand opening,” celebration will be made sometime after the completion of the second phase.

“It has been a real pleasure working with the Seminole Tribe and with Max Osceola,” a delighted Goldsmith said as he watched visitors enter the casino. “We worked hard to answer any question or concern that anyone had about this facility.

The casino is the fifth Seminole Tribal gaming facility, joining similar operations in Hollywood, Immokalee, Tampa and Brighton. But, in many ways, it is a first for the Tribe. Jo-Lin Osceola, Coconut Creek Casino Manager, explained.

“It’s really a big step for the Tribe in that this is the first time the Tribe is

opening a casino without an outside management firm handling the operation,” said an elated Jo-Lin. “We’re doing this on our own.”

“It shows that the Tribe has learned from the past and is growing with experience and professionalism. Finally, we can say we are truly independent. It’s a big day for the Tribe.”

Mitchell Cypress, Seminole Tribal President, also agreed that the facility is unique.

“It’s really beautiful inside,” Cypress said. “When you’re inside, you don’t even know you’re in Florida. It takes you away. I like that. And, I think everyone in this community will benefit.

“The gas stations and local stores and shops will all do more business. They’ll see that having this facility here increases customers. I think this is a good deal for all of us.”

The Coconut Creek Casino will be open 24-hours a day. It is located just west of Florida’s Turnpike at the Sample Road exit. For more information call (954) 977-6700.



James Billie snips the “ribbon” to open the Coconut Creek Casino.



*Well, they ran through the briars
and they ran through the brambles
And they ran through the bushes
where a rabbit wouldn't go...
— Johnny Horton, "The Battle of New Orleans"*

It was a furious weekend of Seminole Wars out at Big Cypress the first weekend in February. Bright and sunny for the most part, with just a chill in the air. The U.S. Army soldiers, looking a little more irregular than the "Indians" who dressed up for the 2nd Annual Kissimmee Slough Shootout & Rendezvous were about to take a licking.

"When I die, the battle's over," crackled a voice over a walkie-talkie, one of few hints that this was still February 2000, not 160 or more years ago. Billy L. Cypress gave a speech to a bleacher-full of spectators, and then the battle began, first with a few stray shots, and women and children running ahead of a rear guard of Seminoles on foot, firing to protect their escape. The U.S. infantry followed, loading black powder into rifles, and lugging a cannon that would boom four times during this battle, igniting real explosions in the general direction of where it was aimed. Finally, a group of Seminole warriors mounted on horseback, routed the hapless army, shooting stragglers and capturing their cannon.

It was a good day not to die.



2ND ANNUAL KISSIMMEE SLOUGH SHOOTOUT & RENDEZVOUS

Photos by: Elrod Bowers • Charles Flowers • Bob Kippenberger • Ernie Tiger

