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# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

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## Federal Indian Policy Bush Plans Still Pose Mystery To USET Tribes

By Charles Flowers  
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Will the Bush Administration be good or bad for Indian Country? The answer depends on who's doing the talking. At the 32nd annual meeting of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET), those were mostly members of the Democratic Party, and their answers ranged from, "Be afraid. Be very afraid." To: "Give the new guy a chance."

From Candidate Bush to President Bush, the evolution of spin on Indian issues by the newly-sworn-in chief executive has been profound. Last June, then-Texas Gov. George W. Bush, said in a speech, "State law reigns supreme when it comes to the Indians, whether it be gambling or any other issue."

Sounds like encouraging words for the enemies of tribal sovereignty. The Republican National Committee followed with a softer tone. Their platform stated: "We will strengthen Native American self-determination by respecting tribal sovereignty..."

Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), who chairs the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, from which many initiatives addressing Tribal issues emanate, said he is not troubled by the apparent conflict in the two statements.

"I think he (Bush) was taken out of context," Campbell told this reporter at a reception in a House

See USET, page 15

## Fair Memories

The Seminole Tribe will host its 30th Annual Tribal Fair on Feb. 8 - 11 at the Hollywood Reservation. People who come will get to enjoy many things, such as booths, arts and crafts, food, fashion shows and more. The fair has come a long way from the beginning, and even further from the inspiration for this event. It's fair to say the Tribal Fair can trace its roots back long ago to the Dania Tomato Festival.

Back in those days, the Dania Tomato Festival was a big event. All the local people would plant tomato plants so they would have them ready for the festival. The biggest event at the Tomato Festival was



**Betty Mae Jumper**

the tomato fight. Young boys would choose sides and they would throw tomatoes at each other until one side won. I don't know how they decided a winner, but they did.

Us Indians used to watch and be amazed. My mother, and many other Indian women - would usually manage to pick up a box of tomatoes to bring home to eat. We couldn't afford to throw food around.

When my son Moses Jumper Jr. was one-year-

See BETTY MAE, page 7

## Brighton Festival Set For Feb. 15-18

By Libby Blake  
BRIGHTON - The 63rd Annual Brighton Reservation Arts and Craft Festival will once again provide entertainment for all ages in addition to a first class rodeo production.

Beginning Thursday Feb. 15, Professional rodeo leads off the festival with slack events for the cowboys and cowgirls at 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The annual Princess contest commences at 7 p.m.

Over 2000 area school children have been invited to the festival's Kids Day on Friday, Feb. 18 at 10 a.m. EIRA (Eastern Indian Rodeo Association) sanctioned rodeo will be featured at the Fred Smith Arena starting at 8 p.m. This is the third round in the EIRA 2001 schedule and will be preceded by Kids events starting at 6 p.m.

Saturday's events begin with a parade at 10 a.m. and continue throughout the day with activities to satisfy every taste. The Festival will feature a "Living Village" where the history of the Seminole Tribe will be reenacted with demonstrations of Indian cooking, weaving, arts,

See FIELD DAYS, page 7



Secretary of State Harris and Seminole Chief Billie examine canoe, age-dated 2,200-2,700 years old.

## Secretary Harris, Chief Billie Visit Ancient Canoe Site

■ Lake Muck-raking Stopped, page 8

By Peter B. Gallagher  
PITHLACHOCCO - Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris took her first break from the rigors of the recent presidential election by flying to an exotic locale . . . with Seminole Chief Jim Billie at the throttle.

The diminutive Secretary, resplendent in two-inch heeled leather fashion boots covered by an ankle length brown skirt, jumped into the co-pilot's seat of the Seminole Tribe's Bell 407 helicopter, Jan. 24th, with the Chief at the controls. Destination was 7,400-acre Newnan's Lake, near Gainesville, where a group of high school students discovered the first of more than 100 ancient canoes last summer, on the drought-exposed lake bottom.

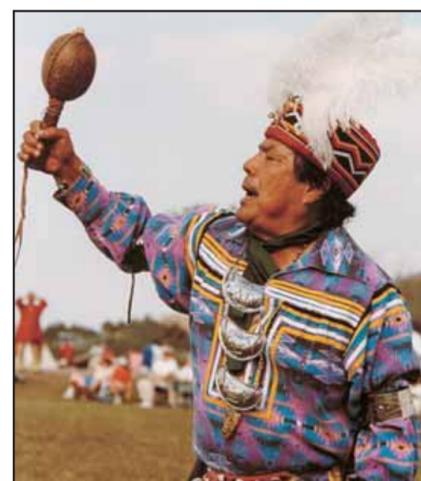
The cultural find - the largest aboriginal

canoe site in the world - made eerie connection with the former name of the lake - *Pithlachocco*, which is similar to words in the Seminole languages that mean *big boat*, where boats are made or boat place. Radiocarbon tests show the boats ranged in age from 500 to 5,000 years old.

The official reason for the Secretary's meeting with Billie was to firm up plans to nominate the site to the National Register of Historic Places. "This is an extraordinary find," she said. "We now have an amazing opportunity to go back in history. I hope the Tribe and the State can nominate this together and share in the protection of these historic properties."

Secretary Harris also wanted to invite the Seminole Chairman to serve on a special advisory council overseeing the Miami Circle cultural site.

Both objectives were accomplished. Billie is See VISIT, page 8



Bobby Henry (Otter Clan) is the rainmaker.

## Bobby Henry In Line For Folk Heritage Award

BIG CYPRESS - Seminole medicine man Bobby Henry is among five Floridians recommended to the Secretary of State for the prestigious Florida Folk Heritage Award.

Mr. Henry joins Richard Seaman, Henry Ohumukini, Jr., Alexander Jasiukowicz, Jeanie Fitchen and James Kelly as winners of the 2001 award. The five were chosen by official vote of the Florida Folklife Council during its meeting hosted by the Seminole Tribe at the Big Cypress Reservation last month.

Official letters from Secretary of State Katherine Harris announcing the award will go out soon. The awards will be given out at the Florida Folk Festival in May. Previous winners of the award from the Seminole Tribe include Susie Jim Billie, Henry John Billie and Betty Mae Jumper.

## Board Holds Active Session

• Council Meeting Page 7

By Jessica Cattellino  
HOLLYWOOD - The long winter drought, renovations at the Brighton campground, sugarcane operations, and support for the Intertribal Agriculture Council were among the issues discussed at the Jan. 31 meeting of the Board of Directors of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.

President Mitchell Cypress began the meeting by hearing Board reports from the representatives, who extended condolences to families of recently deceased tribal citizens. Representatives reported that they have kept busy during the past few months by attending holiday parties and other tribal events, sponsoring community activities, supervising reservation projects, attending conferences, and overseeing construction projects. Several stated that

See BOARD, page 7

## Victim's ID Sought By SPD

The Seminole Department of Law Enforcement is seeking help in identifying a dead female found in a Big Cypress canal on Jan. 10. She appeared to have been there since 4 p.m. Jan. 9. She was found off a dirt road, just past the Broward - Hendry County line. Foul play is suspected.

The white, possibly Hispanic, female is described as in her late 30's to early 40's, approximately 5-3, 140 pounds. She has collar length black hair and hazel eyes. She was found wearing a teal nylon windbreaker, white shirt with narrow black stripes, and long, light blue trousers. She had a top front tooth missing.

If you have any information concerning the identification of this individual please contact Officer Akin at (800) 275-1455.



# Editorial

## Clinton's Native Legacy

**\*David E. Wilkins**

Although he did not act to pardon or grant clemency to Leonard Peltier before he left office on Jan. 20, an act that would have brought substance to his indigenous record, Clinton's overall legacy, sandwiched by the former and incoming Bush administrations, will likely be perceived by many Indian peoples in muted positive terms, because while he did not engage in major substantive policy developments that could have placed him alongside Richard Nixon who, for all his flaws, is well-remembered in Indian Country, Clinton liberally used his executive order authority and the symbolic power of his office to at least establish generally close ties with many tribal leaders.

The President, of course, has not expressed constitutional responsibility for Indian nations — that is a power reserved to the Congress under the commerce clause. Nevertheless, it is to the President — dating back to George Washington, who had an active hand in Indian affairs through the treaty process — that tribal nations and their leaders have most often looked to gauge the federal government's character and commitment to fulfill the nation's historic treaty and ongoing trust obligations to indigenous people.

When Clinton became President in 1992 his was a blank slate as far as most Indians were concerned, since Arkansas is not exactly teeming with Indians or reservations. But Clinton's staff had done their homework in an effort to attract as many of the one million adult Indian votes (out of a total population of roughly 1.9 million) as possible in his bid to defeat George Bush.

During a campaign, Clinton promised to support tribal sovereignty, reaffirm the government-to-government relationship, promote true consultation with tribal leaders, support traditional Indian religious expressions, provide more funds for economic development, promote affordable health care, and improve education for Indians. All these pledges struck just the right chord with Indian peoples who, like African-Americans, generally vote overwhelmingly for Democratic office-seekers.

Clinton's appointment of Bruce Babbitt, the former governor of Arizona, home to 21 reservations, to be the Secretary of the Interior, and Ada Deer, a Menominee Indian Leader, and the first Indian woman to serve as the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, were generally viewed as positive appointments throughout Indian Country.

But an early news conference in February 1992 signaled that the president had much to learn about Indian issues. A member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, the largest non-federally recognized tribe, questioned what Clinton intended to do about the Lumbee's unofficial status and the difficulties other non-recognized tribes were having with the Bureau of Indian Affairs administrative process to recognized tribes.

The President seemed taken aback that there were non-recognized tribes and admitted that "you've asked me a question I don't know the answer to. But I'll tell you what I'll do . . . I will put somebody to work on it the first of the week and I'll try to figure out if there is anything we can do." While some inquiries were made on the President's behalf, the Lumbee, and most other similarly situated tribal groups, remain in a non-recognized status.

Although Clinton opted not to forcibly address the issue of federal recognition for non-recognized tribes (his Assistant Secretary, Kevin Grover, who replaced Ada Deer, would in 2000 formally surrender his agency's right to recognize tribes), he stepped up his efforts to at least provide symbolic recognition of the rights and status of recognized tribes.

On April 29, 1994, the Clinton administration and most of his Cabinet, in an historic gathering, met with the leaders of 322 federally recognized tribes on the White House lawn to broadly discuss the unique relationship that exists between indigenous nations and the U.S. Clinton had formally invited the heads of all 547 recognized tribes to the summit.

Simultaneously, the president issued two memoranda: the first called for executive departments and agencies to be respectful of tribal sovereignty and to operate in a government-to-government relationship with tribal nations; and the second called on those same political entities to work cooperatively with tribal governments in the accommodation of American Indian religious practices, particularly regarding eagle bodies and their feathers.

The impressive assemblage and the two important if minor directives were offset, however, by Clinton's proposal to cut 13 percent from the Indian Health Service's 1995 budget.

While some of that money would later be restored, this action sent a message to Native people that while it is important to listen to what the president said, it was more important to keep an eye on what he was actually doing.

Clinton would, however, use his executive order power several times to provide some benefits to Indians: protection of Indian sacred sites (May 1996); support for tribal colleges and universities (October 1996); consultation and coordination with Indian tribal governments (May 1998) and comprehensive federal Indian education policy (August 1998).

As part of his ongoing show of support of Indians, Clinton made two visits to Indian Country. In July 1999, he became the first sitting president since Calvin Coolidge to officially visit a reservation — Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota — to promote his economic development program designed to inject badly needed capital into economically depressed regions of the nation.

In April of 2000, he visited Shiprock, N.M., in the heart of Navajo Nation. He was there to promote a \$17 million initiative to bridge the "digital divide" that hampers the efforts of residents in Indian Country to compete in the information age due to lack of modern communication tools. Clinton's visit, not surprisingly, was considered the "top story" of 2000 by the *Navajo Times* newspaper.

While these two trips signaled important new developments, the major issues that have bedeviled tribes — entrenched poverty (notwithstanding gaming revenues), land claims, lack of enforcement of the trust responsibility, tensions between tribal governments and state officials, the problems of non-recognized tribes, poor health care, inadequate and substandard housing, problems of traditional religious expressions, and inconsistent judicial and congressional policies vis-à-vis tribes — continue to hound native peoples.

Tribes will no doubt continue to look to the U.S. President as the major barometer on how well or not the federal government is fulfilling its legal and moral obligations to the indigenous nations. In that vein, the Clinton legacy, with the exception of a few brief surges of momentary if largely symbolic activity, is one that follows the American tradition of inconsistent recognition of Indian legal, political, and property rights, with occasional recognition of their distinctive cultural rights.

— *David E. Wilkins is an Associate Professor of American Indian Studies at the University of Minnesota*



Po-kee-she-she-kee

## Willie Frank: A Man Of Service

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. This verse from II Corinthians 5:8, applies to Willie Frank, a long time resident of the Big Cypress Indian Reservation. Willie was a life long Seminole Tribal citizen, and there's no doubt in my mind he is present with the Lord.

He became a Christian back in the 1940s and lived the abundant life until his walk of life ended Dec. 27, 2000.

Willie was born on Dec. 15, 1913, somewhere in the swamps of the most southern tip of Florida. He and his family lived in the remote hammocks, growing their own vegetables, hunting deer, fish, and other wildlife that nature provided. The family's transportation was most likely a dugout canoe when the water was plentiful, or by foot when it was a dry season.

His family very seldom ventured into civilization due to their natural love for their home in the swamplands. The only time they made their way into Miami or Fort Lauderdale, was to purchase necessary supplies such as sugar, salt, and other foods that they could not make on their own.

However, one of the main reasons they kept themselves secluded was because they feared the white folks. For many years after the U.S. Government conflict with the Seminoles (*e-la-posh-ne-cha-xhe*) back in the 1800s, Seminoles had the hardest time trusting white-folks.

In the early 1900s the United States accepted Native Americans to become citizens and Federal Properties were established (Reservations). Even then, many families remained strict with their teachings about not trusting the government.

One of those families that made the transition from their original home to the Big Cypress Indian Reservation was Willie Frank's family. He was a young man at the time. I do not recall if his father, mother and the rest of the family came at that time. He may have had his own family when he came to Big Cypress.

Seminole Indians are naturals in agricultural and animal husbandry. Many Seminoles became cattlemen — Willie Frank was one of the first on the Big Cypress Reservation to undertake the cowboy way of life. He was a very good cattleman in the Seminole Tribe's cattle

program. It was cowboys like him who made the cattle industry what it is today. The Seminole cattle industry of today is highly recognized in the United States and maybe in the world.

Mr. Frank was also a public servant for the Seminole Tribe. For over 20 years he served in the Tribal Government on the Board of Representatives. He made sure the Tribal programs like the cattle business, land management, and homesites for the Tribal citizens functioned properly.

He was employed by the Tribe to oversee the land use and cattle pastures. He kept the cattle pastures irrigated and the grass maintained.

He also maintained heavy machinery and equipment in operating condition. Along with all the jobs he did, he was also a church treasurer, keeping the holy finances in order and up to date. Willie Frank was a man of God, a man of many hats, but, most of all he was a wonderful man and will be missed by his people in the Seminole Tribe.

He left us good memories from the days of his yester year. His children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren will miss him very much! Thanks be to God we can look forward to a great reunion in Heaven one day.

— *Cowbone is a man some folks may know by the name Paul Buster.*



COWBONE

## Memories

*You left us wonderful memories  
I cannot recall any bad ones at all  
You were born in the deepest  
Everglades  
Very traditional, but, you followed  
God's call*

*Never a moment for the old ways  
You shouldered the cross and gladly  
followed  
Beautiful flowers were not always  
But in your heart, God is holy  
and hallowed*

*Valleys and mountains of life  
Were only a blessing and a stepping  
stone  
Your toils of life are paid, graciously  
Because you made Jesus Christ for  
your own*

— *Hem-mung-ala-ka. Cowbone*

## e-mail

6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024

**Editor:** I am from Mrs. Waldman and Mrs. Feldman's class. We consist of fourth and fifth grade highly gifted students. There are ten 4th graders (one of which is me) and 25 fifth-graders. The fourth graders are doing an Indian project and the tribe my group chose to do was the Seminoles.

Your web site provided all the information we needed and was just simply wonderful. I wanted to say thank you and hope all the other people in the world get to witness a site like this and learn about the Seminoles.

**Kathleen  
RussKirsch@aol.com**

**Editor:** I would like to get in touch with some friends — Eldean Billie and Leah Bowers. Can you give them my address information? Thank you.

**T-Bear Davis  
1808 E. 8th  
Okmulgee, OK 74447**

**Editor:** I would like to express my sincere appreciation to David Cypress and Manuel Tiger for their sponsorship of the Disney Marathon for the benefit of the Leukemia Society. I was a member of the Pembroke Pines chapter of Team in Training, your sponsorship helped our chapter raise \$297,000 towards the research of leukemia and other blood related cancers. Thank you again for the generous contribution to this worth while cause. Sincerely,  
**Candy Cypress**

**Editor:** I would like to applaud all of the hard work and effort you have put into the Seminole Tribe's newspaper. The *Tribune* highlights the lives of the Nation as well as other Tribal issues conflicting other

**Nations — great job!** I have enjoyed reading your *Tribune* for quite some time on the net but it's time to buy a subscription. Please send me information on cost. Thank you.

**Yolanda Obe-Poncho  
Alabama-Coushatta Nation  
Livingston, TX**

**Editor:** I need your help. I want to know the name of the marshy subtropical wilderness, whose name comes from an Indian word that means, "trembling earth." It was once a favorite hunting ground of the Creek and Seminole Indians.

**Tariq Hafeez  
tariq@amexol.net**

**In the Okefenokee Swamp, islands are formed by layers of peat and become the foundation for grasses, shrubs and trees. When stepped on, these islands move a bit — thus the "trembling earth" phrase, which in the Seminole language sounds similar to Okefenokee.**

**Editor:** I would like information on Indian Chiefs: John Hicks, Vice Chief Charles Hicks, and Elizabeth Giddens (I don't know my great-great grandmother's father's name, but he was a Chief in the Hernando County area during the Seminole War). The Hicks were from Mayo, and fought around the Marion County area during the war.

I would like to know who I could talk to in the Tribe concerning this matter. I know the Seminoles aren't at peace with the U.S., as such, but I am one of you and a pale face. I am proud knowing that my grandfathers on both sides of my families were chiefs.

**Beverly Smith  
SmithB@sumter.k12.fl.us**

**Chief Billie:** I would like to be invited to be with the Indians to meet and spend time with them. I need transportation.

**John Banks  
San Francisco, Ca  
bnjoh6@aol.com**

**John, you are too young to run away from home. Please stay in school, study and when you graduate, come and visit us. Sho naa bish.**

**Editor:** Hi, I'm a Tribal Council Member of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Maine I would like to commend you on your wonderful website. You have a lot of information.

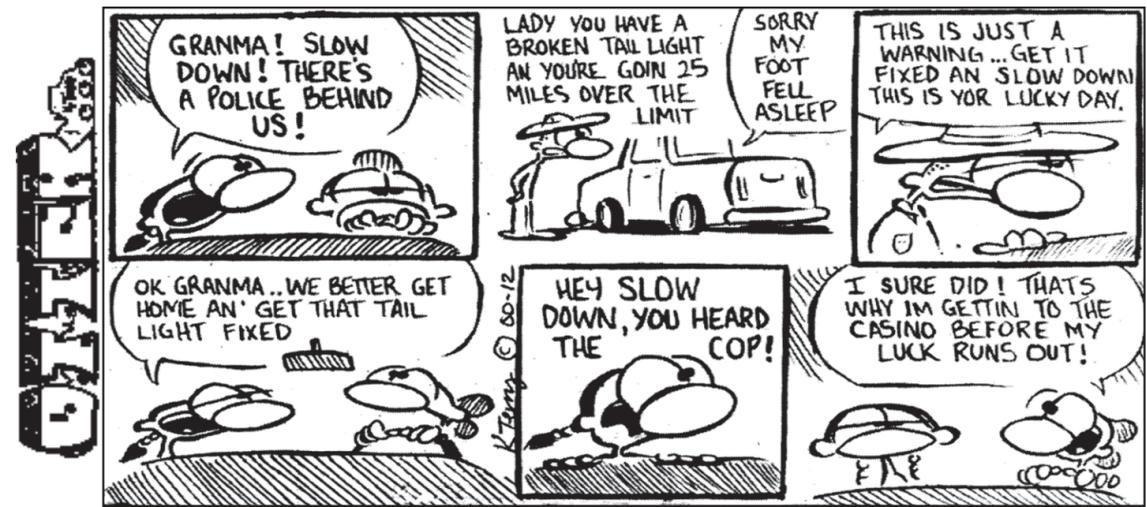
**Fred Francis  
fredfrancis@wabanaki.com**

**Editor:** How I so admire your Tribe. I find you an incredible inspiration after reading about you. Perhaps someday they may make a movie about you and your triumphs. I would love to study the Seminole Prophecies as I have been doing a lot of studying on such topics. It would be a delight to have such a powerful and positive force to come here and inspire all of us especially on Long Island. God bless. May the Creator light a lamp unto your feet.

**Lauren Gross  
laupearl2000@yahoo.com**

**Editor:** Help, I've lost a friend, Mark Billie, from the Tampa area. We met at St. Pete Junior College. If anyone knows him please give him my address. Thanks.

**Carol Wilson  
saalem119@webtv.net**



# Seminole Tribune

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Charlie Cypress, top left, with other members of the Silver Springs Indian Village, was considered the "chief" of that group, and received billing on all the attraction's publicity material.

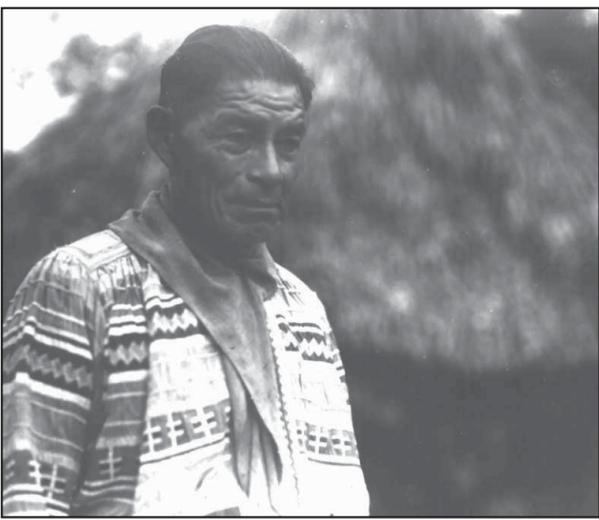
Reflections By Patsy West

# Who Was Tribe's Chief In 1937?

*Babette Smith (Roselleiz@aol.com) is interested to know who was the chief of the Seminoles in 1937 when her father was in Florida.*

In actuality, the Seminole did not have a singular "chief" in the 20th century. However, there were men who were important enough players in Seminole Tribal affairs or who were in the public eye enough that they might have been assumed by tourists and the local public to hold the title of "chief" during 1937.

At this time, the majority of the Florida Seminoles wanted nothing to do with the United States government and the federal Indian reservations. Therefore, they handled their own affairs internally based on their Tribal edicts and the ruling of their Tribal elders. Sometimes, however, it was necessary for a more visible public liaison to handle their affairs and make their wishes known.



Ingraham Billie was another leader who avoided publicity.

by his non-Indian co-workers and the Miami press as a man of authority in the tribe. Osceola resided at the tourist attraction "Osceola's" in Miami, which was a business operated by former Musa Isle tourist attraction manager Bert Lasher.

William McKinley Osceola was the very visible "head-man" of this attraction and was instrumental in selecting numerous Seminoles to go to expositions in the north. He also made decisions which affected individual Seminoles. He handled personal and financial affairs for the traveling Seminoles and acted as the contact and liaison between them and the promoters.

Cory Osceola, a brother of William McKinley Osceola, was the most probable candidate for the title of "chief" in 1937. He had been involved earlier than his brother in the Miami tourist attraction scene, but by 1937 had left Miami to reside seasonally on the Tamiami Trail at his wife's tourist attraction, one of the earliest Seminole-owned and operated attractions.

The Miami media continued to seek out and recognize Cory Osceola as the leader of the Seminoles, usually referring to him as "Chief" Cory Osceola. He was indeed an important liaison who served the traditional Seminole council. He also responded to situations regarding early Seminole sovereignty issues, which required their immediate attention. In that capacity he directed telegrams to the nation's capital alerting Department of Interior officials or even the President of the United States on behalf of the Florida Seminoles.

He was frequently aided in his para-legal endeavors by Miami lawyer O. B. White, who served unofficially as pro bono counsel for the non-reservation Seminoles for over two decades. Far less visible, but serving the Seminole people as their official leaders in 1937, were medicine men and bundle carriers such as Ingraham Billie and Cuffney Tiger and Ingraham's brother, medicine man Josie Billie. Ingraham Billie held the position as the key leader of the Seminoles. While Ingraham Billie was far less visible, his brother Josie Billie was more ambitious and sociable, therefore well known to those interested in the Seminoles' welfare. Josie Billie was gregarious and well traveled, attending exhibitions in Wildwood, N.J., and New York.

He had a sizeable and loyal group of followers who relied on his leadership and medical knowledge. Josie Billie was often called to aid his brother in contacting the government or the press, utilizing his good friend W. Stanley Hanson of Fort Myers to formalize his brother's wishes in official tribal council communiqués.

Lastly, isolated in the Big Cypress, was Cuffney Tiger. Far the more retiring and less visible than the others, this traditional leader was also looked to for statements affecting tribal matters. Depending on the venue in which your father knew the presumed "chief" of the Florida Seminoles, any of these men might have been presented in that capacity in 1937.

— Reflections Number 185.



Josie Billie became a legendary Seminole medicine man and a leader to his people.



Cory Osceola, with wife Juanita, was probably candidate for title of 'Chief' in 1937.



William McKinley Osceola was head man at 'Osceola's,' a tourist attraction in Miami.



Cuffney Tiger, a medicine carrier, avoided publicity, but was a leader.

# Jack Tigertail: Mysterious Death Ended Life Of Tourism Pioneer

**By Vida Halkert**  
**HIALEAH** — Back in the early 1920s there was no Mickey Mouse or Terminator posted on road signs pointing the way to Florida. Instead of cartoon or movie characters, there was a colorful Seminole Indian man dressed in a long shirt pointing the way to wild South Florida.

The Seminole Indian featured on the cutout was Jack Tigertail, who indeed was a character — a real life character.

A member of the Wind Clan and probably the most popular Indian in South Florida at the time, Jack Tigertail rose to become a leader of his people and a symbol of an era.

“Jack Tigertail was a good looking Indian with a winning personality,” says Stuart McIver. “He spoke English very well and was very friendly with both white and Indians.”

McIver is an author, columnist, editor and screenwriter with a passion for South Florida history. He has written many books and more than 200 articles, including those that appeared in his “The Way We Were” column that ran in the Fort Lauderdale *Sun-Sentinel's* Sunday magazine, *Sunshine*.

Tigertail's charming personality was so enthralling that most people even referred to him as the Seminole Indian Chief, says McIver.

They even made him the symbol of the town of Hialeah, when in 1921 Tigertail's photograph, arm extended, was transformed into an outsized figure pointing the way to the new town northwest of Miami.

The picture, posted on billboards 20 to 30 feet high could be seen from as far away as Jacksonville, explains historian Patsy West, author of *The Enduring Seminoles, From Alligator Wrestling to Ecotourism*. “His gesturing likeness was taken as Hialeah's logo.”

But, while his combination of popularity and good looks led to his popularity, it also may have contributed to bringing his life to a fatal and premature end.

On the night of March 8, 1922, Jack Tigertail was fatally shot on the back by an unknown assailant. The tragic death of a man so well known and respected caught the attention of the public and the media. Soon his story spread out throughout the State.

Jack Tigertail had been born in the Big Cypress Swamp sometime in the early 1870s. Just like his brother Charlie Tigertail, who was the first Indian to run a trading post and a store in the Everglades, Jack grew up between Miami and the Everglades. As a young man, he hunted, fished and traded for a living. But he also spoke, read and wrote English.

Jack Tigertail married a member of the Big Town clan and in 1918, at the age of 46, the handsome, large and very well known Tigertail moved with his family into Coppinger's Tropical Gardens, an alligator farm and Seminole Indian village created by Henry Coppinger. The Irish-born Coppinger created his tropical gardens, located on the south bank of the Miami River at 19th Street, to attract tourists by showing the Indian way of life, says McIver.

The Indian village offered tourists a look at the so-called “traditional” way Seminole Indians lived as they interacted as a community; the women cooking and sewing palmetto dolls. The excitement was provided as the men performed alligator wrestling shows. Arts and crafts were also sold at the villages and tourists would pay to have pictures taken with the Indians in their colorful dress.

There were other “Indian” villages in South Florida but the one in Coppinger's Tropical Garden was the most popular and many Indians concentrated there. Tigertail became their leader, explains McIver. “He was the Tribe's business agent. He communicated easily with his own people and the white world that surrounded him.”

And there, Tigertail was killed. The first man to be arrested and charged in connection with the murder of Tigertail was Charlie Veber, a 35-year-old white man who had a reputation for being a “player in Prohibition's major growth industry, rum-running,” says McIver.

Although Veber was also known as a ‘gator hunter, trapper, plume hunter and trader with the Indians, his bad reputation is what almost caused him to spend the rest of his life in prison.

“He had a bad record,” says McIver. “And he could be placed at the scene of the crime very easily.”

Another character linked to the crime was Charlie Billie, Tigertail's cousin. Billie, who was known as a man of few words, was the first to find the body of Tigertail lying on the dock of the farm.

Billie reported that when he found his cousin, Tigertail was still alive and that before dying disclosed his murderer as a white man.

“Me going on long sleep. White man, he shot me,” were the last words pronounced by Tigertail, according to Billie, whose comments were recorded at the police station and later published in the March 8, 1922 edition of the *Miami Herald*.

According to Billie's testimony, Veber arrived at the dock at 11 p.m., on the night of the murder. He brought a bottle of whisky. The three men, Veber, Tigertail and Billie drank the alcohol as they discussed egret plumes Veber wanted to buy from Tigertail.

Billie said after realizing he had no business with the two men, he went to sleep leaving the other two men discussing the price of the feathers, and drinking whisky. Later that night, Billie woke to the sound of a gunshot. He went out to the place where he had left Tigertail and Veber, and found his cousin lying on the dock. Veber, he said, was taking off in a small boat.

Based on Billie's testimony, Veber was taken to court and found guilty as charged. But Veber's attorneys — G.A. Worley Sr. and G. A. Worley Jr. — from the Miami law firm of G.A. Worley & Son, strongly believed in the innocence of their client and suspected Billie was lying, moved by “some secret motive.”

The attorneys appealed the verdict based on some technicalities, and won the right to a second trial.

This second trial started on Nov. 20, 1922.

This time, Billie's accounts were found inconsistent and the lawyers raised a “reasonable doubt,” suggesting that Tigertail had had been killed by a rival Indian, perhaps from the village located in Musa Isle, Coppinger Tropical Gardens' major competition. Musa Isle was located on an island between the north and south forks of the Miami River about one mile north west of Tropical Gardens.

Because it was never proved the shot that killed Tigertail came from Veber's gun, the attorney's suggestion of doubt seemed reasonable. It was one word against the other and the only witness to the murder was a man who could have perfectly been drunk on the night of the killing.

This was enough to save Veber, who walked out of the courtroom on Nov. 25, a free man. It was also enough to keep alive the question of what happened that night at Coppinger's Tropical Gardens.

McIver believes the man who committed the crime was Charlie Billie, the one and only witness. He draws his conclusion from talking to people from the circle of Indians who were the descendants of those who actually lived through that period of time.

“From talking to people who do not want to be identified, it was whispered in the circle of Indians that Tigertail was killed by Charlie Billie because he [Tigertail] had become too friendly with the wife of one of the Indians,” said McIver.

McIver believes Tigertail's looks or personality or a combination of both is what probably led to his death.

“He was very well-liked,” said McIver. “People loved him and he probably had many women after him. But, the Seminole Indians had very strong beliefs and adultery was seriously condemned. It is believed that the Tribal Council would not have approved adultery, not even from the most popular of their men.”

Patsy West agreed, and explained that in Seminole society, “deviance from the norm could be punishable by death.”

The irony, explains McIver, was Jack Tigertail was a man who represented union among whites and Indians, but that did not keep him from trouble.

“Tigertail is a martyr and his legacy is that he represented union among whites and Indians. The



**BIG INDIAN:** The likeness of Jack Tigertail showed tourists the way.

irony of Tigertail's legacy is that even though he was a symbol of union he was assassinated for breaking the union between an Indian couple or breaking the Indian laws of marriage.”

Patsy West adds Jack Tigertail's popularity continued after his death.

“The Indian Village at Coppinger's came to be called the Tigertail Indian Village and as late as 1926 it was billed as the ‘home of the late Chief Tigertail.’”

Musa Isle closed down in 1964 and Tropical Gardens, known at the time as Tropical Paradise, closed in 1969. In the 1970s the Miccosukee Indian Tribe opened and operated the Miccosukee Embassy not far from where these two Indian villages were located.

While Jack Tigertail's death occurred long ago, his legacy as a tourist promoter continues to this day. On the Big Cypress Reservation, a cutout patterned after the original Jack Tigertail still points the way to Billie Swamp Safari. In that sense, Jack Tigertail is still impacting tourism and helping his Tribe to prosper.

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# Cecil Johns, Former Tribal President, 1935-2001

By Charles Flowers

**HOLLYWOOD** — Cecil Johns, who served as president of the tribe from 1983-1987, was laid to rest, Jan. 25, in an oak-shaded grave in the cemetery west of the First Seminole Baptist Church.

He was buried with his black cowboy hat, which symbolized his days as a Brighton cattleman. There were other cowboy hats in the church, politely held by other cowboys who came to pay their respects.

But Mr. Johns wore many hats. He could have been buried with a football helmet, an Army cap, or a Bible. The line that snaked out of the church, and the crowd walking from the church to the graveyard were the plainest evidence that Cecil Johns touched a lot of people in his 65 years.

Many of them were children. After an outstanding career as a running back for Okeechobee High School, Mr. Johns devoted himself to youth sports. He was a coach, organizer and chauffeur. He was instrumental in starting the youth bowling league.

"He loved football so much, he was ready even to be water boy," said Rev. Wonder Johns, recalling Mr. Johns' boyhood. "He wanted to play, but he wasn't eligible for some reason. So he carried water to the other boys until a coach gave him (an injured player's) uniform. . . Anybody that needed help, he was willing to give it — even if it was just a drink of water."

Rev. Howard Micco remembered Cecil's nickname: "Crazylegs." He laughed along with the packed church when Rev. Johns told how he earned it. On one of his first plays, Cecil took a handoff and ran the wrong way while his teammates waved wildly. Finally, he realized his mistake and finished the play by running the other way for a touchdown.

Mr. Johns would later be inducted into the Brighton Sports Hall of Fame, and, last year, into the Seminole Sports Hall of Fame on the Hollywood Reservation.

In 1957, after high school, Mr. Johns enlisted in the U.S. Army. In 1962, he married Alma (Panther) Johns, a Cherokee from Oklahoma in Washington, D.C. where he worked as a property and supply officer for the Seminole Agency.

The family, which would grow to include sons William and Toby Johns, came to the Hollywood Reservation in 1964. Besides his terms as President, Mr. Johns served two terms as Hollywood Representative to the Seminole Tribal Council, and as health director of the Seminole Health Department.

At the funeral service, his niece, Rita Youngman, sang "Amazing Grace" and two of her own compositions, "Faith Like Paul" and "Sound of Rushing Horses," to honor her late uncle.

Rev. Paul Buster also joined in on songs in English, Creek and Miccosukee, and delivered part of the eulogy. He spoke of Mr. Johns' failing health due to complications of diabetes.



Pallbearers guide former President Cecil Johns' casket following funeral service.

Charles Flowers

"He was a dad, a husband, a grandfather to many children," Rev. Buster said. "Because of his health, it seemed like God would have called him 15 years ago. He was a Christian warrior, a fighter. He fought a good fight so he could be there for his boys, his family. Cecil is walking on streets of gold today."

Rev. Micco, who noted that Mr. Johns was

one of seven founders of the church at Brighton, gave personal emphasis to Mr. Johns' role as a Christian missionary to the Tribe.

"I got a Bible Cecil gave me back in '86," he said. "I wasn't a minister, or thinking about being a minister. But he knew . . . You might have planned to be somewhere else today. But, Cecil invited you to church."

Besides his wife, sons and niece, Mr. Johns is survived by his sister Mabel Haught of Brighton, and five grandchildren, one of whom held a single rose as she comforted Mrs. Johns.

President Mitchell Cypress along with Steven Bowers, Charles Hiers and other Seminole Veterans presented the family with an American flag at the graveside, after a bugler blew "Taps." Chairman James Billie flew back and forth across the State of Florida to give words of comfort to Mrs. Johns.

The Rev. Johns said he spoke with Mr. Johns the day before his death, and quoted him as saying, "Just keep doing what you're doing, and don't ever give up. I want you to keep praying for my boys."

In the Seminole tradition, the day he died his family started a cooking fire at Mr. Johns' home on North 36th Street. It burned for several days as visitors came and prepared sofkee and other foods. In the memories of his many friends and family, the fire that was Cecil Johns' life burns on.

# Fort Meade: Post On The Peace River Played Key Role In War

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

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon

**FORT MEADE** — On Dec. 13, 1851 just before dusk, Lt. George Gordon Meade informed Gen. David E. Twiggs he had found the location of Old Fort Clinch. The General stated, "Here shall be Fort Meade."

"With that order, the fort changed names and that was the beginning of the city of Fort Meade," comments Betty D. Waller, local historian and long time resident of Fort Meade, a small community about 15 miles south of Bartow in Polk County.

"The original fort was named Fort Clinch and it was established in 1849. The fort was not maintained, however, and had a short life since during those years there was relative peace between the Seminoles and whites. But during the Third Seminole War, the value of the location as a military base was recognized and a fort was rebuilt and garrisoned. As a strategic point, it was important, and its perfect drainage and general healthfulness were advantages appreciated by the military authorities," says Waller.



Fort Meade

Lt. Meade served in the United States Army during the Seminole Wars while a young man. He was assigned to control the Seminoles located on the east side of the Peace River. He later returned to serve in the Army during the Civil War and became a Union General. He commanded the victorious Union Army at the Battle of Gettysburg, in 1863. "That was called the greatest engagement ever fought on American soil," says Waller.

"In Florida, the fort had another bit of history. Many of the original soldiers stayed and formed families around the fort. The Seminoles were supposed to stay on the east side of the Peace River. Fort Meade was on the west side. It was garrisoned and the soldiers were to make sure the peace remained between the inhabitants of the area. The Seminoles and whites did not mix," says Waller.

The name Peace River (or creek) is a corruption of the original name Pease Creek, explains Waller: "The name came from the wild peas which grew in great profusion along its course. No treaty of peace was ever made on, or near, that river. The impression that it was ever named Pease Creek because of an actual peace treaty is erroneous."

Canter Brown, Jr., author of Florida's Peace River Frontier and Fort Meade, 1849-1900, says a rebuilt Fort Meade was especially important during the third and final Seminole War (1855 - 1858) the last Indian uprising east of the Mississippi.

"In early December 1854, the army garrisoned at Fort Meade withdrew and began its slow march down the ancient Indian trail to the crossing of the Caloosahatchee River and Fort Thompson," says Brown.

"Already on hand at Fort Meade was John I. Hooker, who had the contract to supply beef to Fort Myers beginning Dec. 7, 1854. Hooker bought all the buildings at Fort Meade from the army for \$200. Moving into the abandoned fort with the Hooker family were five blacks."

After the fort was abandoned by the military, slowly, the Seminoles began attacking farms around the area.

"There was a lot of tension between the Seminoles and whites around 1855," says Waller. "The Seminoles started attacking farms located near the fort. Even though in time of need people, meaning the whites and Seminoles, helped each other."

"Once a Seminole woman came near the settlement because her baby was sick. A woman, Mrs. Varn, came to her aid. Her husband was a doctor and together they nursed the baby back to health. In appreciation the Seminole woman gave Mrs. Varn a black, hand-made, velvet pin. At one time the Varn family donated it to the Historical Society to have it displayed in the local museum, but now it's back with the family."

James W. Covington, author of "An Episode In The Third Seminole War," which appeared in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*, says:

"The war began when the Seminoles, becoming alarmed about the several surveying and scouting parties moving through their temporary reserve, attacked one such party."

It has been reported that the leader of the attacking Indians — Billy Bowlegs — was the victim of the surveying party, which uprooted several of his

banana trees and helped themselves to his supplies. When Bowlegs approached the men for payment, they insulted him. Later, he returned with a band of warriors and attacked the surveying party.

"As it turned out, the Indians were probably right in making this drastic decision to make a last ditch fight to defend themselves," Covington writes. "The Secretary of War, Jefferson Davis, already had reached the decision to force the remaining Seminoles to leave Florida."

"Since there had been various attacks on farms near Fort Meade, on January 1856, the fort was re-garrisoned. Once again it was to be used to protect the white settlers from the Seminoles," says Waller.

Any hopes of peace came to an end in the early morning of June 14, 1856. Celia Tillis, along with her Negro maid, Aunt Line, and her two boys went out to the cattlepen to do the morning milking. The boys stayed at the gap ready to lower the bars

when the cows were ready for pasture. As she approached the cattle, Mrs. Tillis realized that all was not well. She approached a docile cow attempting to soothe it and she remarked to Aunt Line, "Something is wrong with these cows."

Suddenly, the cow at whose side she knelt bowed its head as if ready to kneel and Mrs. Tillis followed its gaze to the worm rail fence. Instantly, she saw many faces close against the rails. She did not hesitate, but crying loudly, "Indians! Run for the house!" she

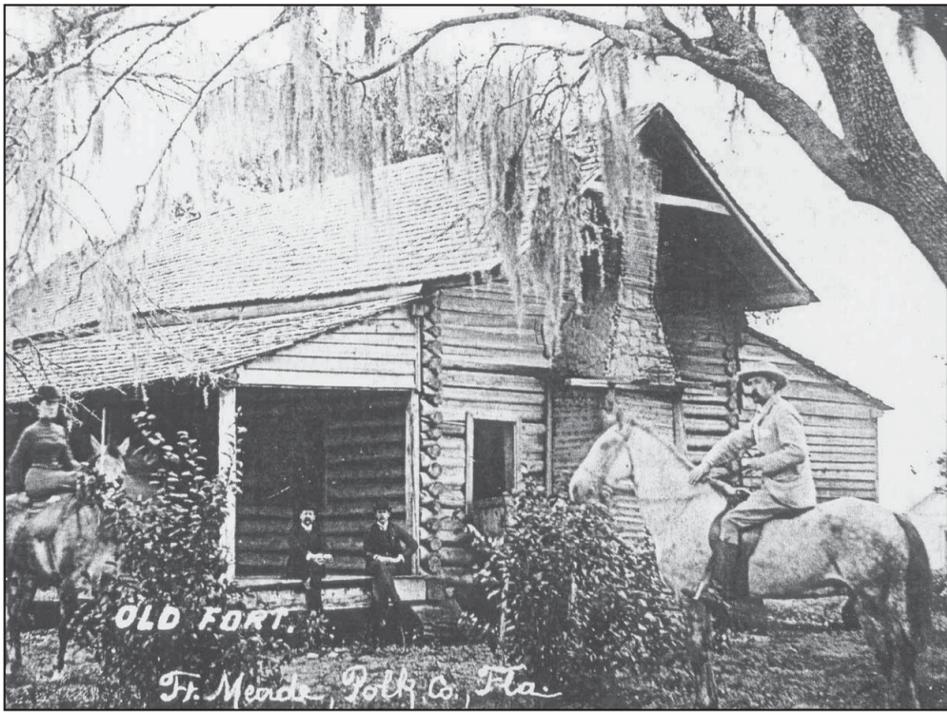
suited her actions to her words. Thus began the Battle of Peace Creek.

"After what seemed to all of us an unendurable time we reached the door of our house," recalled James Dallas Tillis, son of Willoughby and Celia Tillis, as he narrated his story to the assistant editor of the Florida Historical Quarterly in October 1929. "My father, who had heard us, rushed to the door, frantically trying to load his gun. He pushed us past him, then slammed the door and shot the wooden bolt in place, and it was not one moment too soon. A bullet from an Indian's gun splintered the planks and ploughed through the forehead of Aunt Line. She was painfully wounded, but my mother eventually nursed her back to health."

"We were living in a house one mile away from Fort Meade with another family, the Underhills. Our house was originally three miles from Fort Meade. All the families in the area moved closer to the fort for protection because there had been a lot of Indian attacks going on. Many people told my father to move to the fort. He refused but chose to move closer to the fort for his family's welfare."

Since the attack was so near the fort, two boys heard the gunshots and went to tell their father Daniel Carlton. He reported it to his father, Lt. Alderman Carlton, who was commander of the garrison at Fort Meade. Lt. Carlton hurriedly mounted six men: Daniel Carlton, John C. Oates, William Parker, William McCollough, Henry Hollingsworth and Lot Whidden.

"The galloping hoof beats of their approaching horses, warned our enemies, who crawled from their position behind our cattle pen and fortified themselves in the south of our house," recalled Tillis. "My father warned Lt. Carlton that they were outnumbered more than two to one."



Original Fort Meade building became a private house after the end of the Third Seminole War's battles.

Lt. Carlton whirled to give his command, but at that moment William Parker sighted the Indians moving and him and the other six charged. But the Seminoles had the advantage because they were stationary and the attackers were mounted and moving rapidly. The Indian fired, and Lt. Carlton, Parker, and Whidden fell dead. Hollingsworth was badly wounded.

McCullough, upset by the deaths of his comrades, remounted, and ran towards an Indian. Daniel Carlton ran behind him and between both bent the Indian to the ground and cut his throat with his own hunting knife. After, Carlton mounted his horse and went in the direction of Fort Fraser. The Carlton family was later to impact Florida history again. Daniel Carlton's grandson, Doyle Carlton, became the 25th governor of Florida, serving from 1929-1933.

The next day, reinforcements arrived. Capt. F. M. Durrance, who was commander of Fort Fraser and brother of Celia Tillis, came to the rescue with a command of 50 men. "My recollection is that the attack on our home took place on a Saturday morning," said Tillis. "Capt. Durrance did not overtake his quarry until sundown of the following Monday. At that hour, he and his command stole upon a Seminole sentinel. The Seminole band was sitting in the water beneath the overhanging bridge waiting to take their pursuers at a disadvantage. A fierce battle commenced.

"Two soldiers under Capt. Durrance were killed. These were privates Robert Pine and George Howell. Three were wounded, J.L. Skipper, William Brooker and J.L. Whidden. The Seminoles afterwards admitted to 15 casualties. This engagement was, I believe, the last of the Seminole hostilities in Florida."

The body of the Indian whom McCullough and Daniel Carlton killed was buried in the stockade of Fort Meade. They believed it was a medicine man because he carried on his person many healing herbs and medicinal plants," said Mr. Tillis. "They took the body of the Indian because it was a custom of the Seminoles to protect the bodies of their dead. If a white man's hand first touched the corpse, it was forever abandoned."

"After the attack on the Willoughby family, there remained tension between both parties. You would barely see both sides mix. Once in a while, you would see Seminoles come into the fort," says Waller.

"Billy Bowlegs agreed with the Indian agent Elias Rector in February 1858 to negotiate emigration," says Brown. "By late March he and other Seminole leaders had come to terms. Out of fear that the Seminoles otherwise would not come in by the agreed time, the volunteer troops from Fort Meade were withdrawn to the vicinity of Tampa and concentrated there."

"On May 7, 1858, Billy Bowlegs left Florida forever. With him were 164 Seminoles, Mikasukis, and Tallahassee. The following day Col. Gustavus Loomis declared the Florida war closed with the assurance 'the people can now return to their homes and usual avocations without fear of further molestation.'"

"The old fort was demolished in 1890," recalls Waller. "Parakeets used to come and settle in the oak trees near the place where the fort had been. At times it was full of color and song. In 1920, Mr. L. A. Morgan from Georgia bought the property and built an attractive home and grew a fine orange grove. The property has now been divided into attractive homesites and the approximate site of the old fort is set aside as a lovely park and playground for children, on North East Third Street between Cleveland and North Streets."

This was not the only Fort Clinch. The original existed during the Second Seminole War.

"Fort Clinch was on the Withlacoochee River about 18 miles from its mouth," says William D. Hoyt, author of "A Soldier's View of the Seminole War," which was published in the *Florida Historical Quarterly*. "It was established in October 1836, and served as an army post until June 1842."

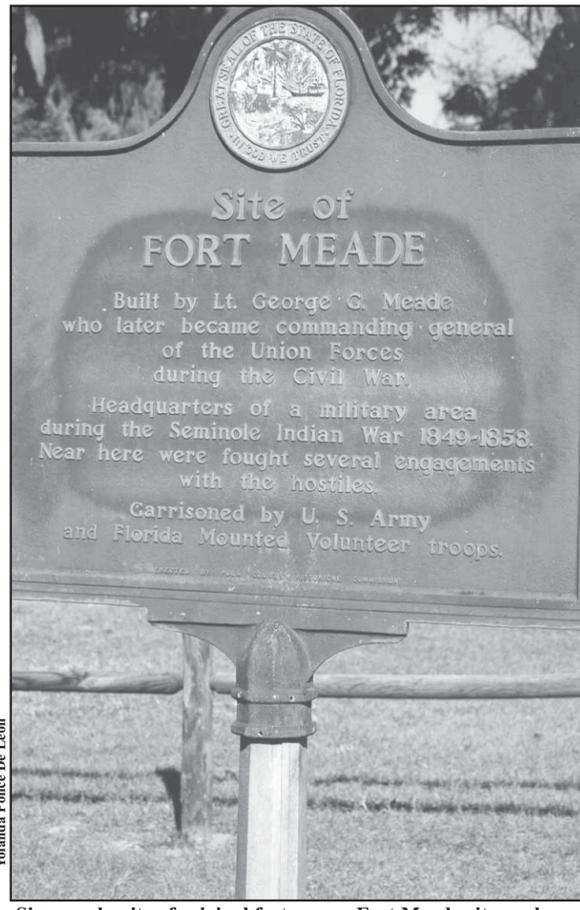
How do you get to the exact location of Fort Meade?

"Turn east on Third Street," says Lela Bass, local librarian for the Fort Meade Public Library. "On the second block is the Old Fort Site Park. There is a marker where the exact fort stood. You can rest or eat a picnic."

"Fort Meade has a lot of history behind it and we try to conserve it," adds Waller. "A monument stands in the block between South Church Street and South Hendry Street, just off East Broadway, to mark the place where the Battle of Peace Creek was fought."

For further information on Fort Meade, contact the Fort Meade Historical Society at (863) 285-7474.

Next: Fort Brooks.



Sign marks site of original fort, now a Fort Meade city park.

Yolanda Ponce De Leon

privates Robert Pine and George Howell. Three were wounded, J.L. Skipper, William Brooker and J.L. Whidden. The Seminoles afterwards admitted to 15 casualties. This engagement was, I believe, the last of the Seminole hostilities in Florida."

# Community News



Photo (l-r): Samuel Tommie, Greg May (Army Corps of Engineers Colonel for the Jacksonville District), Beth Carlson (Lewis, Longman & Walker), Craig Tepper, Frank Finch (Ex. Dir. South Florida Water Management District), Stephen Walker (Lewis, Longman & Walker), Tom Teets (Senior Supervising Planner for the South Florida Water Management District), John Volin (FAU Assistant Director of Biological Sciences), and Maureen Finnerty (Everglades National Park Superintendent)

## Water Managers Meet On B.C.

**By Rhonda Roff**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Agency heads from numerous water management offices met with Tribal Representatives Jan. 25, on Big Cypress to discuss the Seminole Big Cypress Water Conservation Plan, which is part of the larger Everglades Restoration Act.

The managers discussed use of federal funds for data collection and monitoring of the restored aquatic systems, and for combating the infestation of the *Old World climbing fern*, an invasive exotic that crowds out many native plants.

The Seminole Tribal Water Resource Management Department will collaborate with researchers from Florida Atlantic University to monitor the success of the Everglades Restoration. Frank Finch, Ex. Dir. South Florida Water Management

District, Greg May, a Colonel for the Jacksonville District of the Army Corps of Engineers and Maureen Finnerty, Superintendent of the Everglades National Park. The three were enthusiastic about the Tribe's projects. In particular they were impressed with our focus on correct scientific results as opposed to "politically correct" science.

They said they still need a way to communicate with local governments and landowners to gather input on the restoration. Since the Tribe's part of the restoration will probably be completed well before many others, the example should include start-to-finish community participation.

The Water Resource Department booth at the Hollywood Tribal Fair and Rodeo will have posters describing the project.

## Top Travel Writers Visit Safari

**By Libby Blake**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — More than 20 of the top travel writers in the U.S. and Canada traveled recently to the Billie Swamp Safari as part of a FAM trip arranged by FLA USA. The five-day trip was designed to familiarize the writers with rural tourism in the state.

"We undertook this project to familiarize these influential journalists with the Lake Okeechobee region and Florida's Freshwater Frontier. VISIT FLORIDA is committed to marketing the state's rural resources to visitors who are interested in more authentic and off-the-beaten path destinations," said Kerri Post, vice president of New Product Development for VISIT FLORIDA. "We believe this region can experience the positive benefits of increased tourism, without sacrificing the quality of life that initially drew residents to the area."

The journalists' trip started in the Avon Park area and worked its way down the middle of the state. Executive Director of the Clewiston Chamber of Commerce Jeff Barwick contacted Safari Marketing Director Lucky Evanicki about including a visit to the

park when the group reached the Clewiston area. After discussions with Lee Tiger, Tourism consultant for the Tribe, arrangements were made to provide a day of swamp buggy and airboat rides, Seminole traditional foods, and a luncheon in Seminole history to the journalists.

The writers started their day with a visit to Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum then proceeded to Billie Swamp Safari for buggy rides, nature walks, and lunch in the Swamp Water Café.

"We treated the journalists to an old fashioned barbecue of chicken, corn on the cob, gator tail, and fry bread," said Evanicki. "The group loved it — even going so far as to ask for copies of the Café's menu."

With their bellies and their notebooks full, the group moved on to Clewiston for a reception and dinner at the Clewiston Inn.

According to Barwick, the comments from the group that night and the continued feedback about the entire trip have all been very positive. "In all their comments, the visit to the Billie Swamp Safari was a cut above the rest of the trip."

## Tax Assistance Available

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida has arranged for RSM McGladrey, Inc. to assist Tribal citizens in the preparation of their 2000 Individual Income Tax Returns. The tax accountants were at each reservation during the first week of February and will return per the following schedule:

Hollywood — Jan. 31 — April 5, Monday — Thursday; Big Cypress — March 1; Immokalee — March 2; Brighton — March 5 — 6; Tampa — By appointment; Fort Pierce — By appointment.

RSM McGladrey, Inc. estimates the majority of returns will be completed and mailed within 3 to 5 business days. Please bring the following information with you when you meet with the accountant:

- Copy of your 1999 tax return (Form 1040).
- Any correspondence received from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) during 2000.
- Form W-2 from all employers.
- List of children (dependents) with their birth

dates and social security numbers.

- Form 1099 showing income received during 2000.
- Form 1099R, if you are receiving any funds from a pension plan.
- Name, address and Tax Identification Number of the person or company to which you paid child care expenses.
- Form 1098 showing the amount of interest you paid to a bank or mortgage company.
- Social Security statement, if you are drawing Social Security.
- List of charitable contributions.
- Property tax bills.
- Daytime telephone number.

Tribal members will be assisted on a first come first serve basis on the scheduled days. If you have any questions you can contact Evelyn Alvarez of RSM McGladrey, Inc. at (561) 697-1785.

# Heritage Festival: Sharing Our Past, For Our Future

**By Tommy Beem**  
**HIGHLANDS COUNTY** — "Sharing Our Past, For Our Future" was the theme for the third annual Homecoming held at the Edna Pearce Lockett Estate Jan. 20. The weather was cold and cloud covered but it didn't dampen the pioneer spirits of the day. Hand shakes and "howdy's" were plentiful and seemed to be the order of the day for friends and families visiting and seeing one another while they reminisced about the good old days under the beautiful oak hammocks on the estate.

The Edna Pearce Lockett Estate is a satellite of the Florida Agriculture Museum dedicated to the preservation of Florida History through agriculture and its related history. The Pearce Home site is the major project of the Florida Heartland Rural Economic Development Initiative (FHREDI), a six county coalition of the rural counties that include DeSoto, Glades, Hardee, Hendry, Highlands and Okeechobee counties. Restoration and preservation is the goal of the project. Located on the property is a small Seminole Village of Chickees manned by Tribal citizens to show the Native American impact on the area.

The Pearce Homestead is located on the Kissimmee River where the Highlands and Okeechobee meet at Highway 98. The site is rich in heritage and is marked by three distinct historical periods.

A prehistoric linear mound of a peculiar type known to the Kissimmee Valley is located on the river front oak hammock. A Seminole habitation is recorded on a survey map dated 1869. The estate itself is one of the earliest settlements in central Florida.

John Mizell Pearce settled with his parents in the Peace River Valley in 1846. He served in the Confederate Army in 1863 and returned to Peace River Valley and Fort Meade after the conclusion of the Civil War.

Pearce remembered the location of Fort Bassinger from the third Seminole War in 1837. After the death of his father Levi in 1874 John moved his family to the homestead and its present day location to start his cattle empire.

Deeded 157 acres through the Internal Improvement Fund of the State of Florida in 1888, Pearce began his dream. The property deeded included the abandoned Fort Bassinger built by



FLOUR POWER: Lorene Gopher makes frybread.

General Zachary Taylor as his headquarters from 1837 — 38. The fort was named after a young lieutenant killed in the Dade Massacre.

When the Second Seminole War ended in 1842 Fort Bassinger was closed. During the Third Seminole War, it was reopened as a transfer point and commissary depot for supplies. It closed for the final time after the conclusion of the war, never to open again.

Pearce expanded his land holding as he expanded his cattle herd of what was to become the Pearce Cattle Empire. Pearce also ran a river ferry

called the Mary Belle. He was also a peace officer and for many years the only law in the lower Kissimmee River Valley. He and his wife Martha raised nine children.

Pearce died in 1897 leaving his estate to his family — wife Martha and son William Sidney (Sid) Pearce, who carried on the family ranching activities as well as the ferry business. Miss Martha replaced the original family log home built in the 1880's with the wood frame house that remains on the homestead today. Miss Martha passed away in 1911.

After the death of his mother, Sid purchased the main house and surrounding property from the estate and managed the family's business ventures from there. Sid and his wife Marva (Hollingsworth) had four children — Leland Clifford, Ruth, Pearl, and Edna Mae. Sid followed in his father's footsteps becoming a police officer. He donated the land for the first Bassinger School House in 1910. In 1916 he built the first bridge over the Kissimmee River, but cattle ranching was his main endeavor. His cattle brand, P-4, was recognized throughout the cattle community. P — for Pearce and 4 to represented him as the fourth child.

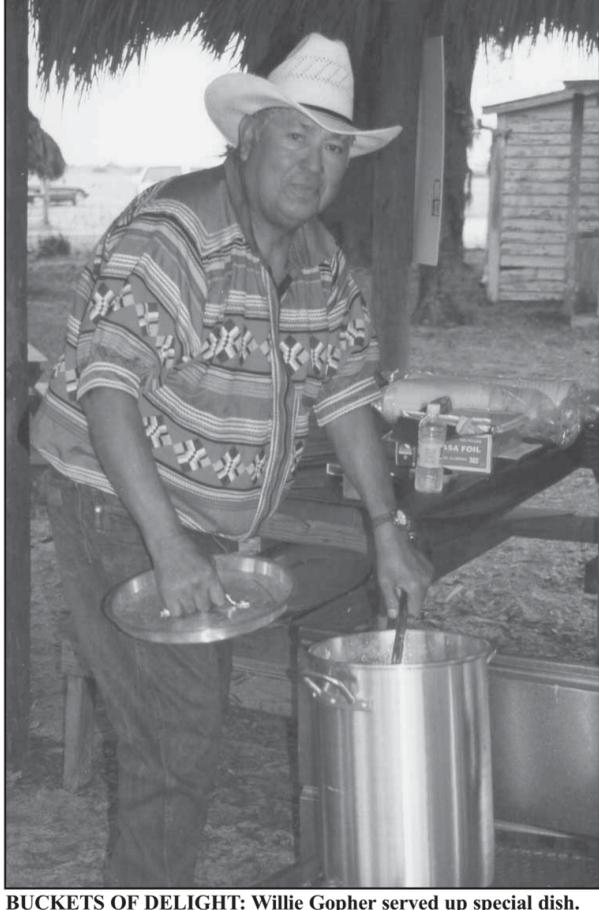
Sid's wife died in 1932 and his eldest son Clifford was killed in an automobile accident in 1934. Clifford was survived by his wife Clara and their four children. Clifford was running for county commissioner when the accident occurred and won posthumously. Clara was appointed to fill his seat and was the first female county commissioner in Florida.

After her brother's death, Edna, sister Pearl and sister-in-law Clara became more involved with the family business.

Edna was named sole beneficiary of the Pearce estates and business after her father's death in 1944. She was now running one of the largest cattle operations in the South. Miss Edna continued to use the P-4 brand, as she too was the fourth child.

meeting any adversity head on. In 1982 she received an honorary Doctor of Law Degree and was named chancellor of a college. She held a member of the Florida's Women's Hall of Fame the same year. The Florida Senate honored her for her service to the state and community in 1983. In 1998, she was posthumously inducted into the Florida Agricultural Hall of Fame.

The day's events at her homestead were full and rewarding with historians and storytellers like Judge Nelson Bailey and his horse Domino and Florida cur dog Cracker. Bailey's Florida Cracker History lessons are interesting, educational and entertaining. Florida historian Iris Walls of Indiantown shared her experience as a young woman and raising her family in the cypress swamps that surround Immokalee, Florida. Living history era-costumed characters Miss Edna, Captain Pearce, Zachary



BUCKETS OF DELIGHT: Willie Gopher served up special dish.

Edna introduced the Brahman blood to India to the estate cattle in an effort to advance the cattle hybrid vigor and to establish a better Florida calf for shipping to the western feedlot operators. She looked towards the future and was receptive to new ideas. She herded cattle with helicopters and also used them to plant grass seed and fertilize pastureland. Edna used progressive methods of canals, ditching, cross canals, and bar ditches to control and regulate water on the vast property.

Like her father and his father before him, Edna was politically involved. She was the third woman ever elected to the Florida House of Representatives where she served three terms and was dubbed the "Lady of the House." Transportation bills sponsored by Pearce paved many rural roadways and bridges including the one over the Kissimmee River built originally in 1916 by her father. She sponsored and got passed the Florida Raised Bill that required a stamp on Florida-raised beef. Edna also sponsored three bill supporting Women's Rights. These bills allowed women to serve on juries, receive equal pay for equal work and protected women's property rights.

Miss Edna ended her legislative career when she married William J. Lockett, a wool broker from London, England, in 1953. She lived in England for the next five years, returning semi-annually to manage her family estate and cattle empire. When her husband retired they returned to the Kissimmee Valley ranch at Fort Bassinger where she ran the family business throughout her retirement years.

Miss Edna Pearce Lockett led a full and rewarding life challenging herself to all limits and

Taylor, Cattle Baron Jacob Summerlin and Seminole War leader Osceola meandered through the crowds.

Florida cowhunter Doyle Hazellief educated the crowd on the way it was during the open range days of Florida. Grandson, Doyle Wigdon, who like his grandfather and Uncle Dewaine still make their living as Florida Cowhunters, recited poetry.

Crafters and artists on the estate grounds showed off their wares while the food vendors filled the air with wonderful aroma. Highlands County's up and coming young artist Hobby Cambell showed his newest release for 2000 — "Osceola" featuring the famous Osceola Turkey.

In the Seminole encampment, pumpkin fry bread and swamp cabbage were prepared by the Willie Gopher family. Seminole doll makers, bead workers and patchwork seamstresses showed off their talents to the public. Seminole Tribe of Florida Councilman Jack Smith, Jr. and the Brighton Community donated the chickees last year.

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# Fuel, Citrus Canker On Council Agenda

**By Colin Kenny**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — A new means to buy aviation fuel highlighted the Seminole Tribal Council meeting on Jan. 18. Tribal Director of Real Estate George Johnson went over the last invoice of a \$10,442 aviation fuel bill from Air BP out of Tampa. Johnson pointed out that buying from Chevron out of Port Everglades would have saved \$600 on that one fuel delivery — tax included. Add the special tax exempt status and the Tribe would save an additional \$700.

"The Tribe does not have to pay Federal taxes so long as you are not selling seats or chartering the plane," said Johnson. By switching fuel suppliers Johnson projected a minimum of \$125,000 to \$150,000 in annual savings on aviation fuel. "We have to become a distributor instead of a real buyer," said Johnson.

The fuel discussion led to the second part of Resolution 20 that was before the Council: Put a gas station at Howard Tommie's cigarette shop on the northwest corner of State Rd. 7 and Stirling Rd.

With state taxes waived off retail motor fuel, Johnson gave a "conservative" estimate of \$80,000 monthly net profit selling Exxon, Chevron, BP or even the Tribe's own off-brand called Warrior or Seminole gas. If they can't do it on the northwest corner, Johnson said Dorothy Tommie would be willing to lease the southwest corner for such a venture. Johnson also mentioned a grassy area on the Tampa Reservation as

another possible site for a gas station. Chairman James Billie put in his two cents worth on tightening the fiscal belt and promoting personal responsibility: "Car loans are on the way out," he said. "Furniture loans are on the way out."

He encouraged Tribal citizens to develop their own credit outside of the Tribe. He said the Tribe might assist in down payments on a car, but it's up to that Tribal person to make subsequent payments and establish their own credit.

Tribal Operations Officer Tim Cox suggested raising the age of the beneficiaries of the Hot-Meals program from 55 to 60 to save money, grandfathering in the 55-60 year-olds already in the program.

"Before we start cutting Seminoles we need to start cutting non-Seminoles," said Councilman Max Osceola before the resolution was tabled.

In Resolution 45, Cox and Hugh Chang-Alloy, Tribal Controller, addressed the increasing challenge of getting the payroll checks out due to a shortage of staff, facilities and office space. Cox added it would cost \$140,000 annually just to pay the extra staff to get the weekly payroll to the increasing number of Tribal employees.

Cox and Chang-Alloy proposed putting checks out on a bi-weekly basis as a cost-effective way to ease the burden of payroll dispersal. However, the Council was not quite ready to unanimously approve that measure and Resolution 45 was tabled.

The meeting was marred by one-

outburst as Tribal citizen, Richard Osceola, interrupted Chang-Alloy at the podium. Osceola became agitated once he was at the microphone. Chairman Billie requested that Osceola state his case. Osceola kept escalating his tirade — turning towards Cox who was now seated at his left — until an impatient Chairman Billie declared to the angry young man: "If you were a little bit sober I'd enjoy it, but you're not."

Osceola was finally escorted out of the Council meeting by SPD Officer Ralph Cook. Humor relieved the tension afterward as Councilman David Cypress joked, "Tim, could I get your signature before you go out that door?"

The meeting also included a discussion of the Citrus Canker Eradication Program by George Johnson.

"The way the program used to be was when the State found an infected citrus tree, any tree within 900 feet would be eradicated," Johnson said. "The State has changed the program so only infected trees may be removed. The Tribe needs to cooperate reasonably with the program, especially now that it's infected trees only."

Johnson mentioned one home site where a Tribal resident had been uncooperative with the state even though an infected tree was found on that person's property. On Johnson's recommendation the Council passed a resolution directing occupants to follow the policy of the Tribe to eliminate trees infected with the citrus canker on all Tribal trust lands.

In other action, the Council:  
 \*Approved a Blue Bird Body Company Lease Purchase Agreement for two school busses for the Brighton Reservation.

\*Approved a Blue Bird Body Company Lease Purchase Agreement for an Ahfachkee School bus at the Big Cypress Reservation.

\*Approved a Corporate Board Subsidy for the Tribal Fair and Rodeo.

\*Tabled Osvaldo Perez's application for a lunch truck permit to service Candlelight Park so as to give Tribal citizens an opportunity to bid on it.

\*Approved various home site leases for Tribal citizens.

\*Approved a revocable permit to be issued to Randall's Wax Works, Inc. at the Big Cypress Reservation.

\*Approved an application by Sprint for utility right-of-way on Big Cypress to put ground cables in.

\*Approved a right-of-way application for Lee County Electric Coop Inc. to power a new pump at a lift station on the Immokalee Reservation.

\*Approved an application for Sprint Utility right-of-way to power a lift station on the Big Cypress Reservation.

\*Dropped a proposed NASCAR race car sponsorship.

\*Approved a schedule and mechanism for releases of water from Confusion Corner to Big Cypress Reservation during drought conditions.

\*Approved authorization to negotiate water and waste water treatment services with the City of Hollywood and Tampa.

## Board

Continued from page 1

they still were recovering from the 3K walk/run held at the Big Cypress Reservation on Jan. 27, at which Big Cypress won the trophy for most participants.

Asked by the Board to summarize the status of sugarcane operations at Brighton, James Tommie reassured all in attendance that the cold, dry weather had not destroyed the latest crop. Don Robertson reported on the Parker Island and Miccosukee pastures, stating that by purchasing hay and providing feed supplements they can protect the cattle from the drought.

The Board approved a resolution of support for the Intertribal Agriculture Council's (IAC) efforts to generate and support business opportunities for Native American agriculture. The IAC aims to improve Indian agriculture as a means to reduce dependence on grants and promote economic self-sufficiency. IAC president and Seminole citizen Richard Bowers announced the organization's next annual symposium (in November 2001) will be co-hosted by the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes.

### In other business, the Board:

•Welcomed Berle Olswanger, based in Brighton, as the new County Extension Agent for the Seminole Tribe's 4-H Program.

•Welcomed Big Cypress cattle foreman Joey Henry.

•Opened a bank account for the Brighton Seminole Trading Post, the convenience store reopening soon at the Brighton campground. The Board thanked manager Sherley Weeks for her efforts to oversee the campground's renovations since the Board took over its management in May.

•Approved two new cattle owners and a homesite on pasture lands.

•Explored the possibility of worming Big Cypress cattle twice annually.

•Adjusted smoke shop and Seminole wholesale employees' medical insurance premiums.

•Issued a five-year revocable permit for a billboard on the Florida Turnpike.

•Approved a resolution to offer property at Coconut Creek to the Tribal Council for \$1.5 million, with provisions for indemnification against possible taxation.

### Announcements included:

•The 30th Annual Tribal Fair, Feb. 8-11. E. Carl Baxley encourages everyone to wear your Seminole clothing!

•The 4-H Hog Sale, to be held at Brighton after Brighton Field Days. There will be a buyers' dinner at 5 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 19. All are invited to support the 4-H kids and bid on the 80 hogs and 31 steers.

•A hog hunt at Big Cypress in mid-February.

## Field Days

Continued from page 1

crafts, and alligator wrestling. Log peelers, archers, and canoe racers will compete in the afternoon.

Featured performers for the festival include Johnny U and Band and the Blue Earth and Aztec Dancers. Clothing contests for all ages will be held throughout the event.

At 7 p.m. professional rodeo takes center stage with cowboys and cowgirls from across the country converging on Florida at the Fred Smith Arena to compete in seven rodeo events. In an effort to increase their national points, as well as adding dollars to their wallets, the

rodeo athletes will ride to best fello competitors in bareback riding, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping and cowgirls barrel racing.

This rodeo, sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA), will draw top contestants. PRCA divides the country into 12 sections, called circuits. The Southeast Circuits is comprised of nine states; North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, and Kentucky.

With total of 84 rodeos held annually in the Southeast circuit, the rodeo in Brighton ranks in the top five. Pro rodeo's top hands will not let this rodeo pass without staking their claim to the approximately \$85,000 purse money awaiting those who ride the meanest

broncs, wrestle the meanest steers, clock the fastest times around the barrels and conquer the wildest bulls.

In 2000 the Southeast Circuit topped the field at the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo, held annually in Pocatello, Idaho. At the finals rodeo champions from all 12 circuits compete for over \$450,000 in prize money and the chance to bring the title home to their part of the United States.

Tickets for all the activities at the 63rd Annual Brighton Reservation Arts & Crafts Festival and PRCA Rodeo can be bought at the gate. Tickets are family priced at \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 years old and under. Day tickets for the festival only are \$2. Kids Day are also \$2. For more information call the Arena Office at (863) 763-4128.

## Tribal Fair

Continued from page 1

old, I entered him into the Prettiest Baby Contest at the Tomato Festival, and he won first place. I got \$5 for that. That was a lot of money back then.

I guess it was a few years later when I was talking to Joe Dan Osceola, and we thought about putting on a powwow that had been dropped for a long time. We got Linda Osceola as secretary to put down what we talked about.

The BIA people also helped. They helped us arrange the event, and put ads in the newspaper for us. They also gave us big bags of grits and flour so we could make sofkee and fry bread for the event. We gave everyone who came a free taste of the food.

We held the festival on the Reservation, but not where it is now. We had it by a little canal that came through

the Reservation. We had arts and crafts at this powwow. My mother Ada Tiger and her sister Missy sold dolls. This is how I learned to run a booth at events.

We also had a little village set up along a canal. At night, we had lights to light up the village. We showed the people what the Indian life was like. A couple came off a dugout canoe and walked to a chickee. There was a big fire burning. We even had dogs lying around the fire.

The woman went to the edge of the canal and washed clothes. She pounded the clothing on a rock, and then rinsed it in the canal water. She hung the clothes in the bushes to dry. That's the way we did laundry back then. No one had wash machines back then.

The Government people also suggested that we should have an Indian clothing contest. They said it would be good for people to see the Indian clothing. We had a contest, but the funny thing is that Indian people in the audience just came up to help us. Back then, all the

Indians wore Indian clothing. So, some of the old people just stood up and entered the contest. The dress they wore was the dress they wore that day!

Joe Dan and I were talking on the microphone. We told people what was going on throughout the powwow. I was surprised that the powwow went so good, as we only had a few people to work and some had to go in the show two or three times.

This was the beginning of our

Tribal powwow. I know Joe Dan remembers how hard we worked. We were up late every night. A lot of people came out and enjoyed the festival.

We had other fairs, but it wasn't a regular event. Not until

30 years ago did the Tribe finally decide to make it an annual festival. I'm glad they did.

Now, the Tribal Fair is much bigger. It's a great event. I'm sure everyone who comes will enjoy all the different booths and the food and the clothing competitions. It will be a good event. It will have everything but a lady pounding clothes on a rock.

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**HISTORICAL SITE:** From the air, a view of the site where 115 aboriginal canoes have been found since May.

# Concern For Artifacts Halts Muck Removal Application

By Charles Flowers

**TALLAHASSEE** — A \$300,000 state proposal to remove muck from the bottom of Pithlachocco (Newnan's Lake) was halted last month by concerns over possible damage to Indian artifacts.

In a terse, two-sentence memo Jan. 19, James Estes, chief of the Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries Resources for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) wrote: "Per our conversation, this letter is a request to withdraw our application for an aquatic plant removal permit for Newnan's Lake." The memo was addressed to William Caton, of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

The decision followed on the heels of a five-page letter from Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) Patricia Wickman to DEP, opposing the permit application.

Citing "extremely high potential for adverse impact upon properties of traditional religious and cultural importance," Dr. Wickman said she believed the application for the Pithlachocco project should be denied. "(T)he potential for irretrievable loss of irreplaceable artifacts is very high."

She built her case in part on letters from State Archaeologist Jim Miller and attorney Gerald York, who represents the Department of State. Last July, Miller wrote DEP environmental manager Gordon Roberts seeking protection for more than 80 canoes that had been discovered, tagged and partially excavated after a DEP-permitted logger dragged logs through the site where most of the canoes were being found.

"Reports from private individuals suggest that canoes may occur in large numbers all around the lake," Miller wrote last July 25.

York added in a Jan. 8, 2001 letter to DEP that "six new canoes have been discovered on the west side of the lake and there is a high potential for the discovery of new canoes in areas not yet investigated."

DEP ombudsman Benji Brumberg noted that Dr. Wickman's letter was "well-received. She's absolutely right in most cases."

Brumberg disagreed with the THPO's assertions that challenged the value of the muck removal to improve fishing in the water-starved lake.

"This would be an ideal time in an ideal world to do this," Brumberg said. "De-mucking would be environmentally good for the lake." But, as he noted from his meeting with FWC officials, the discovery of the canoes, and the state's initial failure to protect them, placed Pithlachocco off limits.

The 7,400-acre lake east of Gainesville was the site of the largest canoe find in history last summer, when nearly 100 dugout canoes dating to 3,500 B.C. were found on the drought-exposed lake bottom. Most have been re-buried.

Seven of the canoes were reportedly damaged by L.C. Pinson of Santa Rosa Beach, who was operating under a DEP permit to remove so-called "deadhead" logs from the lake bottom. Gov. Jeb Bush stopped the logging practice on Florida lakes in response to complaints by the Seminole Tribe, archaeologists and environmental activists.

## Environmentalists Have Their Say

On Jan. 19, environmentalists had their chance to repeat concerns that deadhead logging damages wildlife habitat, and urged that it be banned.

"I think we ought to look at a sunset on the whole program," said Manley Fuller, president of the Florida Wildlife Association, one of three environmental groups that sent representatives to the meeting. Representatives from DEP — including Brumberg, Roberts and two field investigators — and Gov. Jeb Bush's office also attended. No press other than the *Seminole Tribune* reported the meeting.

Fuller's suggestion was echoed by Tiana Burton of the Sierra Club, and Marianne Gengenbach of the Nature Conservancy, who insisted that the logging program needed better oversight, including what Gengenbach called "experts" at both pre-and post-removal assessments. One critique of the Newnan's Lake operation was that DEP employees found no significant environmental damage, and no damage to canoes — even though state archaeologists documented that damage, in photographs and on videotape, to seven of them.

"We think there's a conflict of interest," Burton said, charging the inspectors who are hired out of permit fees paid by loggers are not inclined to cite them for violations.

Phil Coram, who stepped down as the DEP's bureau chief for submerged lands in the aftermath of the fiasco, said there was a "silver lining" in the Pithlachocco case, namely "improved coordination procedures with the Department of State."

Prior to the canoe discovery, the *Tribune* pointed out in a series of articles permitting applications which could impact cultural resources, and no consultation with the affected tribes.

Now the agencies are talking to one another, and the Seminole Tribe in particular has emerged as a major player in discussions involving earth-moving projects where cultural resources — like a cache of ancient canoes — might be impacted.

Still, the governor's aide who made the recommendation to ban deadhead logging on lakes, was not inclined to extend it to rivers, or even continue it indefinitely.

Instead, Jose Boscan said, the program had gone relatively smoothly in most cases, with only three major problems in more than 30 permitted operations. He indicated that was "a pretty good average" by state standards.

Two of the environmentalists' suggestions were given favorable consideration: marking deadhead logs so that mills could identify logs from wildcat operators, and re-convening a technical advisory committee before loggers are permitted back on Florida lakes. Pithlachocco, DEP and DHR officials have given assurances, will not be subjected to further logging, or muck removal, although nearby Orange Lake has been permitted for a muck removal project.

The new committee will have Tribal representation. The first permit they will consider is for Lake Louisa, near Clermont.

## Visit

Continued from page 1

on the committee that Harris will announce to the Miami-Dade Board of Commissioners next Tuesday. And the National Register nomination was passed by a state advisory board, which includes *Tribune* columnist Patsy West, two days after the Harris-Billie meeting. After a final review by Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Dr. Pat Wickman, the nomination will be sent to the National Park Service.

"Unofficially," however, Harris has long wanted to meet James Billie. She traveled to the Florida Folk Festival in White Springs last year hoping for a personal meeting, only to miss him backstage. A long-time admirer of the Chief and his entrepreneurship, Harris had wanted to invite him to write an essay for the prestigious "Florida In My View" column in the

Steve Everett and the two students who found the first canoes, last May, during a class archaeology field trip.

Also in attendance was Alachua County Commissioner Hutch Hutchinson, who is spearheading a growing drive to rename Newnan's Lake back to the original Pithlachocco. Both the Secretary and the Chief assured Hutchinson they supported his idea, which recently became steeped with controversy by several letters of opposition sent to the *Gainesville Sun*. One of those letters was written by retired aboriginal canoe expert Barbara Purdy, who disputes the Seminole heritage of the Seminole canoes.

There was no doubt on the lakebed that day, however. "We really don't have any written records to prove that we people were here so long ago," said Billie, who has noted the similarities in canoes and other crafts among indigenous people throughout the Southeast and in Central and South America. "But one day the earth reveals itself to us by drying and bringing up these canoes where they have been hidden for thousands of years.

"They were saying, 'Here you are. You've been here. Look at these things that you have made.' That is very precious to us Seminoles."

After looking at the canoes and posing for photos, the group traipsed over to the nearby rustic compound of retired biologist and Florida folksinger Dale Crider, who has spent most of the past eight months writing, singing about and organizing vigilante protection of the canoes. When Crider first reported the threat to the canoes by a deadhead logging operation, the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) conducted a lengthy surveillance of his activities, hoping to catch him "stealing" a log from the lakebed.

Now, a few months later, Crider is sharing venison, biscuits and coffee with the Secretary of State near a fire circle in his jungle back yard. "She is a great lady," said Crider, who played several songs for the Secretary on his Gibson hummingbird guitar and escorted her down a precarious nearby path to view a mother gator in her lair. "She seemed very appreciative of what we've all done to preserve these canoes."

Chief Billie told the group that he bore no ill will toward the logger who damaged the cultural site or the DEP which allowed the destructive activity to continue even after the canoes were found and some damaged: "We could pursue it, but why? The man was only trying to make a living and he had permission from one arm of the state," said Billie. "If anything, it helped gain attention by letting the world know."

Harris agreed: "In Florida we go through this sort of thing every day. Even in the city, there might be a valuable historic building threatened by a new development. Decisions have to be made to preserve the building just as decisions have had to be made regarding this important site. The public's opinion and desires are uppermost in the project. I don't think there is any doubt that the people of Florida want us to take whatever steps we can to preserve this site."

Later, standing on the lakebed, Harris begged off any more television interviews, snapping: "Do I have to answer any more questions? Ever since the election I've had lights and cameras in my face, interview after interview. I'm tired of it."

By mid-afternoon, the group dispersed. Chief Billie flew the Secretary and DHR Director Matthews to the Gainesville airport where the Tribe's single-engine turbo Pilatus PC12 cruised the two state officials back to Tallahassee.

"I was kind of surprised Kathy just climbed into the helicopter with me," said Chief Billie, later. "I think a lot of these state officials don't trust me for some reason. She seemed like she really wanted to get away from it all and spend the day with a bunch of old canoes. It was a great day."



**JET SITTER:** Katherine Harris inside the Tribe's G-4.

*Florida History & The Arts* quarterly magazine her staff publishes.

Then, when articles in the *Seminole Tribune* detailed the find and damage to the site by a state sanctioned log recovery operation, she sought the Chief's counsel. He offered a tour of the lake on the Saturday after the election.

"Well, we all know what happened then," she quipped, referring to the controversy over Florida's electoral votes and her sudden fame at the center of a national political storm. "I don't know if it was fame or infamy. It's a strange feeling to suddenly become a character on Saturday Night Live."

She took no offense, however, at the often mean-spirited and cruel-edged descriptions of her, which proliferated the media during, the nearly two months of controversy: "I thought a lot of it was really funny. It didn't bother me."

"You are dressed inappropriately," Chairman Billie said upon their meeting in the lobby of the Gainesville private airport. "You should have old boots and jeans on. We're going to be walking in muck out there."

"Chief, these are the only boots I have," she smiled. "I looked through my whole closet. Can you believe it?"

The Tribe had sent Aviation Director Peter Vedel and the G-4 jet to Tallahassee to transport Harris and Division of Historical Resources Director Dr. Jan Matthews to Gainesville. On the short jaunt, Seminole Harris discovered she shared a common passion with the Seminole Chief — business south of Florida: "The press made all of that up about George Bush making me an ambassador. That was never even talked about," she said. "If something like that would happen, I would rather be an envoy to South America."

Connecting Florida and the rest of the nation — by business — with Central and South America is Harris' dream and she can quote statistic after statistic in its support. She found an agreeable listener in the Chief, who spoke of the Tribe's investments in Nicaragua, including cattle, land, tourism and manufacturing:

"I really like that country," Billie said. "It's a great climate for real business if you know what you are doing and how to act."

From the jet, the entourage transferred to the helicopter. Immediately after clearing the tall trees, a large kidney-shaped body of water came into view. The low water was apparent from the air, with the entire northeast shore sans water for hundreds of yards. A small contingent of humans was waving as the helicopter came to a landing on the lakebed.

A short walk from the 'copter was the complete form of a dugout canoe, with the sand and muck carefully removed around the edges. "It gives me a surreal feeling," Chief Billie said, as the small horde of reporters and curious looked on. The canoe had been partially unearthed by Gainesville East Side High teacher



Secretary Harris, Chief Billie, East Side High students at site.

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# SPORTS

## The Tradition Continues

### Final Results of the Annual Ranch Rodeo

**January 13 Board 203.5 pts. Council 147.5 pts.**

**MUTTON BUSTING (6 & UNDER):** Board: 18 – Council: 9 **1st:** Nauthkee Henry 18.17 – 10 pts **2nd:** Chelsea Nancil 15.07 – 9 pts **3rd:** Trewston Pierce 9.81 – 8 pts

**CALF RIDING (7-10 YEARS):** Board: 17 – Council: 10 **1st:** Huston Osceola #61 – 10 pts **2nd:** Duelle Gore 4.39 – 9 pts **3rd:** Ethan Gopher 3.07 – 8 pts

**Jr Bull Riding:** Board: 19 – Council: 8 **1st:** Lucky Stewart “Bodacious” #73 – 10 pts **2nd:** Steven Billie “Nick” #67 – 9 pts **3rd:** Wilson Bowers “Harley” #64 – 8 pts

**BARREL RACING (10 & UNDER):** Board: 17 – Council: 10 **1st:** Shyanna Osceola 17.771 – 10 pts **2nd:** Nauthkee Henry 18.241 – 9 pts **3rd:** Taylor Johns 9.293 – 8 pts

**BARREL RACING (11-16 YEARS):** Board: 27 – Council: 0 **1st:** Jennifer Dennevaux 16.807 – 10 pts **2nd:** Azzy Henry 16.919 – 9 pts **3rd:**

McKenzie Johns 17.643 – 8 pts

**BARREL RACING (17 & OVER):** Board: 19 – Council: 8 **1st:** Lavern Leaf 17.061 – 10 pts **2nd:** Debi DeHass 18.962 – 9 pts **3rd:** Jennifer Nancil 23.838 – 8 pts

**WILD HORSE RIDE:** Board: 8.5 – Council: 18.5 **1st:** Naha Jumper, Sam Alison, Jr, Al Tigertail – 10 pts **GRD \$:** Jennifer Nancil, Keith Davis, Julius Green – 8.5 pts **GRD \$:** Dave DeHass, Ray Rivera, Rodney Osceola – 8.5 pts

**TRAILER RACE:** Board: 10 – Council: 17 **1st:** Naha Jumper, Josh Jumper, Nicole 1.1040 – 10 pts **2nd:** Jessica Nancil, Josh Parson, Candy Nancil 1.3177 – 9 points **3rd:** Jennifer Nancil, Keith Davis, Julius Green 1.3430 – 8 pts

**WILD COW MILK:** Board: 10 – Council: 17 **1st:** Dave DeHass, Ray Rivera, Rodney Osceola – 10 pts **2nd:** Jennifer Nancil, Keith Davis, Julius Green – 9 pts **3rd:** Naha Jumper, Josh Jumper – 8 pts

**BARREL ROPING: GRD:**

19 – Council: 8 **1st:** Naha Jumper, Andrea Cypress 12.9 – 10 pts **2nd:** Marty Johns, Taylor Johns 14.6 – 9 pts **3rd:** Paul Bowers Sr., Clarissa Bowers 27.9 – 8 pts

**TEAM ROPING & BRANDING:** Board: 9 – Council: 18 **1st:** Jane, Allison, Jr, Josh Jumper 10.6 – 10 pts **2nd:** Joey, Azzy Henry, Rudy Osceola 34.6 – 9 pts **3rd:** Paul Bowers Sr., Clarissa Bowers, Gary Chadwick 51.9 – 8 pts

**TEAM SORTING:** Board: 18 – Council: 9 **1st:** Naha Jumper, Josh Jumper 17.8 – 10 pts **2nd:** Tina Billie, Gary Chadwick 22.9 – 9 pts **3rd:** Debi DeHass, Shelby DeHass 27.7 – 8 pts

**BULL RIDING:** Board: 12 – Council: 15 **1st:** Justin Gopher #71 – 10pts **2nd:** Ray Rivera “Sentiment” #69 – 9 pts **GRD \$:** Kyle Jumper NT – 2 pts **GRD \$:** Jennifer Nancil “Bullseye” NT – 2 pts **GRD \$:** Paul Bowers Jr NT – 2 pts **GRD \$:** Earl Kirkland “Yellow Jacket” NT – 2 pts

### By Tommy Benn

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) is back in the saddle with its 2001 Rodeo Series underway. The first performance of the year was held at the Big Cypress Entertainment Complex in the Junior Cypress Arena Jan. 26.

The Big Cypress Rodeo was the first show produced by newly elected EIRA President and MARKI Productions owner Marty Johns. This was Marty's first outing as both producer and stock provider. The rough stock was in great shape and had the right attitude. The bulls and horses bucked hard and handled well in the arena, chutes and gates proving Marty and crew were up to the task.

Nauthkee Henry won the Mutton Busting (4 – 6 years old) during the youth events. Nauthkee gathered in 10 points for his first place efforts. Tylor Tigertail placed second with 9 points, while Brantley Osceola finished third with 8 points. All the points count towards the year-end awards and championships.

Calf Riders (7 – 9 years old) winners were first place Tylor Gopher with 10 points followed by Seth Randolph in second with 9 points. Steer Riders (10 – 11 years old) found Roy Stewart winning first place with 10 points followed by Justin Alridge in second with 9 points and Randall Osceola third with 8 points.

Junior Bulls (11 – 15 years old) went to Nick Jumper with 10 points leaving Jerome Davis with 9 points to settle for second. Other event winners with points scored were as follows: Beginning Barrel Racing – 1st place Nauthkee Henry 10 points, 2nd place Sheyanna Osceola 9, and 3rd place Shelby DeHass 8. Novice Barrel Racers – 1st place Jade Braswell 10 points, 2nd place Kan Kroepelin 9, and 3rd place



Rudy Osceola (l), Paul Bowers Sr. wait their turn at roping.

– Marty Johns (heeler) and ADEL Driggers (heeler) 10 points, 2nd place – Cicero Osceola (heeler) and dad Rudy Osceola (heeler) 9, 3rd place – Marvin Bowers (header) and Amos Tiger (heeler) 8, and 4th place – Homer Coleman (header) and Rondall Ward (heeler) 7.

**CALF ROPING:** There were no qualified times, and no points were awarded.

**BARREL RACERS:** 1st place – Tess Ducheneaux 10 points, 2nd place – Jo Leigh “Boogy” Johns 9, 3rd place – Trina Bowers 8, and 4th place – Holly “Scooter” Johns 7.

**BULL RIDERS:** 1st place – Doug Fish 10 points, 2nd place – Shawn Best 9, and 3rd place – Koty Brugh 8.

**ALL AROUND COWBOY:** Shawn Best picked up 28 points by placing in all three rough stock events – Bareback, Saddle Bronc and Bulls – and is currently in the lead for the All Around Cowboy Title for EIRA Circuit 2001.

The next scheduled All Indian Rodeo is set for Friday night Feb. 9 at the Bill Osceola Complex on the Hollywood Seminole Reservation during the Tribal Festival PowWow. Contact EIRA Secretary, Debi DeHass for more information at (954) 965-1300 ext.123 from 8a.m. – 5 p.m.

McKenzie Breakays 8.

Breakaway Ropers (50 & Over) – Paul Bowers Sr. and Rudy Osceola battled for top honors. When the arena dust settled Bowers pulled off the victory with 10 points with Osceola a mere point behind slotting him into second.

The EIRA sanctioned events were as follows:

**BAREBACK:** 1st place – Shawn Best 10 pts. and 2nd place – Robert Simpson 9.

**SADDLE BRONC:** Robert Simpson and Shawn Best swapped places with Simpson earning 10 points and first place and Best collecting 9 to place second.

**STEER WRESTLERS:** 1st place – Marty Johns 10 points, 2nd place – Dean Conrad 9, and 3rd place – Jeff Johns 8.

**BREAKAWAY ROPERS:** Jo Leigh “Boogy” Johns was the only roper to get a time guaranteeing her the first position and 10 points.

**TEAM ROPERS:** 1st place team



Kalgary Johns bears down.

## Baseball Banquet Held

**HOLLYWOOD** — Youngsters met recreational officials at the Hollywood Gymnasium Jan. 23, to receive awards for their participation in Little League Baseball throughout the year.

Youths received awards presented by Joe Collins, Baseball Commissioner and Recreational Official of the Seminole Teams. In addition, Tribal citizens Allison Osceola, Daniel Bankston and Melissa Osceola received recognition for helping the Seminole teams.

“I’m very happy in accepting the coaching of the year award,” Joe Collins said. “I guess that’s why I wasn’t invited to the drawing for this year’s honorable award.”

“My only disappointment to this baseball year is that more Tribal youth are needed to be urged to participate in athletics. The athletic program was put together for Tribal citizens, and few participate in the ten teams that fill the fields during baseball season.” Says the Commissioner.

For more information on programs offered by the Athletic Department of Hollywood Recreation, call (954) 989-9457.



Ron Ward with children.

## Mid-Season Pool Tournament

**By Libby Blake**  
**IMMOKALEE** — A mid-season pool tournament was held at the Immokalee pool barn for the shooters in the Seminole BCA (Billiards Congress of America) Pool League on Jan. 16. Both 8-ball and 9-ball events were played.

A tourney for the unsanctioned youth league was also held with the top five girls and boys receiving gift certificates courtesy of Immokalee Recreation Department.

Youth winners were as follows: Girls: 1st place – Christin Benson, 2nd place – Josie Davis, 3rd place – Jessica Lopez, 4th place – Bonnie Davis, and 5th place – Nikki Davis.

Boys: 1st place – Ray Yzaguirre III, 2nd place – Tony Sanchez III, 3rd place – Josh Garza, 4th place – Tommy Benson Jr., and 5th place – Anthony Hernandez.

Adult race-to-one, double-elimination 8-ball winners were as follows: Women: 1st place – Maria

Billie, 2nd place – Virginia Billie, 3rd place – Libby Blake, and 4th place – Dale Grasshopper.

Men 8-ball: 1st place – Roy Cantu, 2nd place – Abel Salgado, 3rd place – George Grasshopper, 4th place – Juan Salinas, 5th place – Ralph Sanchez, and 6th place – O.B. Osceola.

The race-to-three, double-elimination 9-ball competition was coed with winners as follows: 1st place – David Cypress, 2nd place – O.B. Osceola, 3rd place – Roy Garza, 4th place – Mario Posada, 5th place – George Grasshopper, 6th place – Genesus Osceola, 7th place – Delfino Jaimas, and 8th place – Maria Billie.

League position round was held Jan. 22 with Motown Boyz defeating Play’AZ to maintain their first place spot. Seminole’s defeated Motown Bandits to take over the third position dropping the Bandits to the fifth slot when Abel’s captured all four rounds from the Rez Runners to advance into the fourth position.

## Tryouts For Arena Football To Be Held In Big Cypress

**By Libby Blake**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Tryouts for South Florida’s newest minor league Arena Football team, the Florida Firecats, will be held on the Big Cypress Reservation Saturday Feb. 24. Head coach and former Miami Dolphin special teams pro Jim Jensen will be on hand with his coaching staff looking for local talent to fill the team’s roster.

Jensen, who has already signed 12 players, is

playing professional football,” says Mary Ellen Garling, Executive Director of arenafootball2.

af2 culminated its inaugural season last August with 15 teams competing during the 18-week, 120-game schedule. The league will grow to 28 teams for the 2001 season including Jensen’s Florida Firecats owned by Andrew Vallozzi, who also owns the AFL Milwaukee Mustangs. Vallozzi, along with son and team president Chris, have owned the

Mustangs the past six seasons.

The Florida Firecats will call TECO Arena in Estero, Florida home. Jensen reports more than 4,000 season tickets sold to date.

Jensen is looking for coaches as well and while he has “someone in mind” he would not

release any names other than already signed Defensive Coordinator Riley Ware.

Folks around here might remember “Crash” Jensen from his days as a Miami Dolphin. Jensen was an 11th round pick out of Boston University in 1981 and played with the ‘Fins’ until 1992.

After a successful career with the Dolphins, Jensen played for one season with the AFL’s Miami Hooters under old friend Don Strook. Jensen has also coached for the Orlando Predators and the Florida Bobcats.

Information and applications for tryouts may be obtained from Big Cypress Recreation at (863) 983-9659 or from TECO Arena at (941) 390-CATS.



looking to add another 18 before training camp begins March 21. From this he will form the final roster of 21 for the April 6 opener against the Jacksonville Tomcats. There is a \$50 registration fee to try out.

Jensen says he has been receiving calls from players and agents almost daily. Each player receives \$200 per game with a \$50 bonus for each win. While the pay may be considered low, the opportunity for advancement is there.

Arena football 2 (af2) is the Arena Football League’s (AFL) regional Triple-A system for development of professional football at the grass roots level. Although there is no official “farm system” designation in place that af2 teams must provide players to AFL teams, 17 percent of the players on af2 rosters in 2000 signed with AFL teams for next season.

“af2 is a league of opportunity and a training ground for players to continue their dream of

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## Co-Ed Valentine's Day Golf Tournament



**at Clewiston Golf Course**

**Saturday**

**February 11, 2001**

**Open to Tribal Affiliation**

**Two person scramble**

**Entry fee \$40.00 per person**

**Sign-up 8 a.m.**

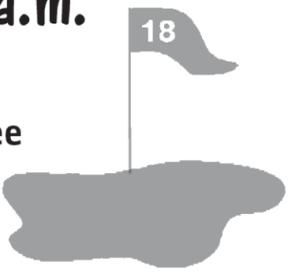
**Tee-off 8:40 a.m.**

**Sponsored by:**

**Big Cypress Recreation/Immokalee Recreation/Tampa Recreation**

**For more info call Joe Frank**

**(863) 983-7029**



# Weather Hits Archery Shoot

**By Janice Billie**

**BIG CYPRESS** — On a gray, cloudy Saturday morning the skies finally opened up and graced Big Cypress with some much needed rain on Jan. 10. Unfortunately that was the morning scheduled by Steve Young of Hollywood Recreation to hold the 3-D Archery Shoot in preparation for the upcoming 2002 Indigenous Games.

Young explained these shoots will be held periodically throughout the months preceding the games. This particular shoot is very early in the season and is for evaluating interest, giving participants an idea of the range, and encouraging participation.

Young is inviting all interested persons to come to these shoots so they can start working with them now and familiarize them with all aspects of the competition. Anyone willing to go the distance and hone their skills can be set up to compete in

regional shoots in the state. Because of the inclement weather and the cross scheduling of another event, there were just three Tribal citizens to take on the challenge.

Brothers Justin and Preston Baker, from the Brighton Reservation and Clinton Holt representing Hollywood came to the event. Though the weather was bad and these guys had to get up early on a Saturday morning and drive out to Big Cypress, their enthusiasm and dedication were not diminished in any way. Each took to the range like it was already 2002.

For more information in this competition please call Steve Young at Hollywood Recreation. Steve is encouraging Tribal citizens to come out, get your skills down, and represent the Seminole Tribe in Canada for the 2002 Indigenous Games.

# Basketball Invitational Tournament Set

**By Libby Blake**

**HOLLYWOOD** — Plans have been finalized for the 5TH ANNUAL March Madness Invitational Basketball Tournament to be held March 15 - 17, at the Gymnasium on the Hollywood Reservation.

The entry fee of \$200 per team must be paid by March 8, with entry deadline March 5. Teams are limited to an eight-man roster.

Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded as

follows: 1st place: Sponsor Trophy, \$1,600 cash, eight individuals, one MVP, one All-tournament team; 2nd place: Sponsor Trophy, \$1,000 cash, eight individuals, one All-tournament team; 3rd place: Sponsor Trophy, \$500 cash, one All-tournament team.

For more information or to enter your team call Brina Cypress at (305) 559-8338 or (954) 257-4753, or you can leave a message for Richard Osceola at Hollywood Recreation (954) 989-9457.

# New Coach At Haskell

**By John Harjo**

**LAWRENCE, KN** — Haskell graduate Graham Snelding (Oklahoma Kaw Tribe) has been named head football coach at tradition-rich Haskell Indian Nations University, replacing Gary Tanner, who will remain as softball coach.

The new coach takes over at a critical time, with Haskell entering its second year in the tough NAIA. Last year, the Fighting Indians' first away from the NJCAA, the team finished a dismal 2-7 under Tanner (coach for the past 13 1/2 seasons). Snelding has spent the past three seasons as the Haskell offensive line coach.

Coach Snelding played football at both Haskell and Minnesota-Morris, graduating from Haskell as the school's valedictorian. After marrying his Haskell sweetheart (at the gazebo on campus) he earned a bachelor's degree from Northwestern Oklahoma State, and a Master's from the University of Kansas.

if these freshmen are recruiting come in ready to play and beat someone out who is already on the team that is great, but they will have their jobs cut out for them," comments Snelding.

Defensive Coach Rich Brewer will take over the job. Snelding promises, "We are going to build our team around our defense. Haskell has long had a tradition of furious defensive play and we are committed to getting back to that level. We will have one of the hardest hitting defenses in small college football next year."

Aptly named redshirt freshman John Star Bighorse, 6- 3, 330, anchors the center of a much bigger and talented defensive line than in the past. Converted 2nd Team All-Conference offensive lineman sophomore Matt Treadwell is 6-4, 260, and last year's starting defensive tackle sophomore Wilbur Begay, 6- 2, 260, and sophomore Josh Cunningham, 6-1, 265, along with redshirt freshman Joe Ross, 6-2, 280 should make a solid group at the defensive tackle spots. At defensive end the return of junior Steven "Hoss" White, 6- 4, 270,



(who had to sit out due to academic rules) gives the Indians a very athletic and big strong side end. "Steve should have a shot at taking in some post season awards," notes Snelding of the very athletic White.

Freshman Joe Ramirez, 6-6, 240 is big enough and athletic enough to play the weak side end and will push

Snelding recently sat down with NDN Sports and talked about his expectations for this, the nation's only four-year totally Native program. He began with the offensive line, which he knows best: Up front the Indians are returning all the starters and all but one of the key back-ups on a freshmen dominated line. Coach Snelding has been extremely impressed by the way the offensive line matured at the end of the year (2000). The offensive line is led by two-year starter Junior Tim Holt, 6-foot, 285-pound, left tackle. "Tim has footwork as good as anyone I have seen since I have been coaching college," Snelding says.

returning 2nd Team All-Conference defensive end Sophomore Alex Herder 6-2, 215, who has phenomenal speed and will also play some corner in situations for the Indians next fall. Herder is a defensive lineman and a cornerback if that tells you anything about this guy's athletic ability. "There are several other promising defensive linemen out right now in the off-season. It will be interesting to see how things work out during Spring ball," says Snelding

Sophomore Ben Bucksin, 6-feet, 250, came on strong and won the center job late last season and is having a super off-season. Sophomore Mike Gillman, 6- 2, 290-pound, guard is also doing very well in the off-season. Coach Snelding says, "Gillman also has exceptional feet for a big man." The addition of two redshirts should also make the offensive line better than it was last season.

Redshirt freshman Arik Henry, 6-4, 315, right tackle and redshirt sophomore, Eugene Harvey, 6-2, 315, at right guard. The versatile sophomore Mike McCall, 6-1, 270, also returns where he should challenge for playing time at center or tackle. "We also have some new additions in the off-season that I am curious to see in pads. Some of them could step up big," says Snelding.

Sophomore Matt Kalfesbeck, 6-1, 235, last year's top recruit, leads a very talented group of linebackers. Sophomore Daniel Brown 6-3, 240, junior transfer Kwame Dewberry, 6-1, 195, and freshman Nick Wade, 6-1, 240, round out a very impressive group of big athletic linebackers.

The secondary that finished in the Top 20 against the pass last year in the NAIA, boasts some of the best athletes on the team. Hard hitting All-Conference strong safety Mike Murray, 6-1, 195, will be moving to the free safety position, while 2nd Team All-Conference linebacker Ben Baker, at 6-1, 230, will move to the strong safety spot. "This should be a very hard hitting group of safeties. If people want to throw over the middle on us next year, they better be ready to pay the price," boasts Snelding.

The quarterback race is wide open with the transfer of two-year starter and the only QB on the roster last season, Brandon Watson. Snelding warns, "Don't read too much into this loss." "We are very excited about Sophomore Jason Jesus, 6' 0" 175, who has a very strong arm and Junior Jason Smith, 6' 3" 185, who is the starting two guard on the basketball team. Smith is very athletic and we can't wait to get him after the basketball season is over. I have seen them both throw the ball and am very impressed with both of them. We should have a real dogfight on our hands in the Spring for the starting QB job," says Snelding.

The very strong and speedy senior, Eric Smith ,5-11, 215 (also a former linebacker) will spend some time at safety. Mike and Ben will have to fight this player for their jobs. Smith is one of the top two hardest hitting players on the team. At cornerback senior Nick Lewis, 6-1, 185 pounds, could very well be the most athletically gifted person on the Indians' roster. "Nick has really not been able to get comfortably at any one position playing QB, WR, and finally DB for the Indians last season. He will be playing DB again this year. I am hoping that by keeping him at the same position we will be able to get more use out of his athletic potential." Snelding says of Lewis.

The receiving corps may well be the strength of the offense. Senior Zach Hale, 5-8, 175, sophomore Chris Barton, 5-11, 185pounds, redshirt freshman Joe Spears, 5- 9, 185, and Fort Scott Community College transfer sophomore Dallas Horn, 5- 8, 170 make up a very talented and athletic group of H-Backs. "These are guys with excellent speed and are very shifty. They will be getting us a lot of yards after the catch. At wide receiver we will be big and fast," assures Snelding.

After finishing the season with just 38 players, Snelding is very excited by what he sees in the current off-season. "We have 67 players in our off-season right now. One of our biggest problems last year was a lack of depth. We would like to bring back 60+ from this off-season and add 30-40 good freshmen. College football is a game of attrition. So many situations occur during the course of the season that depth is key factor on whether you win games late in the season. If we are able to get our numbers up, we could be a force to deal with next fall. We will also have a few surprises up our sleeves in the fall," Snelding states.

One of the biggest problems in the past at Haskell has been keeping players eligible. Snelding says this group is better in the classroom than those of the past -- over 30 players boast 3.0 and higher GPAs.

Second Team All-Conference wide receiver senior Sonny Duncan, 6- 3, 185 pounds, who owns every receiving record at Haskell, boosts the receiver corps. Snelding said, "Sonny underwent knee surgery this off-season but should be fully recovered by the Fall. There is no telling how many yards Sonny could have had if we would have had someone that could have hit him in stride or would have been in a passing offense." Coach Snelding assures us that Duncan is by no means the only talented wide out he has on the roster, Sophomore Josh Baldrige, 6-foot 170 pounds, sophomore Aaron Mason, 6-2, 210, redshirt freshman Israel Bell 6-2, 215, are just a few of the other wide receivers Haskell is expecting a lot from.

In the early 1900s, Haskell University was a dominant force in college football. The team played against the likes of Army, Notre Dame, Navy, Bucknell, Mississippi State, Texas A&M, Nebraska, and Oklahoma among many others. In 1926 Haskell went undefeated with a 12-0-1 record, that same year Navy went 9-0-1, Alabama went 9-0-1, and Stanford went 10-0-1 and all of the latter made claims of being the National Champion (AP Poll started in 1936). In 1932 Haskell lost a home game to Washburn (KS) — only the third home loss in the first 34 years of Haskell football.

At running back and tight end, the Indians also have some talented pass catchers. Senior Justin Blaylock, 5-9, 235, looks to be the leading candidate for the Indians' main backfield position.

"Blaylock is very smart, and consistent in his play. You know he will give you his best on each play," says Snelding. Blaylock is also an excellent receiver out of the backfield. Senior Shannon Ross, 6-1, 230, will also look to add depth to the backfield and at tight end. Junior Matt Means, 6-2, 225, and Junior Wes Breedlove 6-1, 240 will be pushed by freshman Jason Nez, 6-3, 240 for the starting tight end job.

Since this era, Haskell has had a long drought of football greatness — a drought that Snelding plans to break with next season's team.

**-- John Harjo is founder of www.ndnsports.com**

"We have several other players in our off-season that I am looking forward to evaluating. We also feel like we are putting together a solid recruiting class. We have started freshmen in the past and



(standing, l-r) Marla Sanders, Polly Hayes, Michelle Thomas, and Richard Bowers. (seated, l-r): Diane Gray, Becky Buster, Leonor Sandino.

# IAC Coming To Miccosukee

**By Tommy Benn**  
**MICCOSUKEE** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida will co-host the annual Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) Symposium for 2001 with the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians. The event will be held at the Miccosukee Resort and Gaming Facilities Nov. 4 – 10, 2001.

Richard Bowers, a Seminole Tribal citizen and President of the IAC, recently announced the theme for the Symposium – “Keeping Harmony with the Everglades through Indian Agriculture.”

Organizers are expecting over 600 Native American, Pacific Islanders and Alaskan Natives to take part in the week-long programs. The IAC presently represents 52 tribes.

Co-chairs for the Symposium are Polly Hayes, director of the Seminole 4-H, and Michele Thomas, Chairman’s assistant from the Brighton Reservation. Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress’s executive secretary, Marla Sanders, Becky Jumper, director of sales and marketing, Diane Gray, general manager and Leonor Sandino, sales director of the Miccosukee Resort and Convention Center will be adding their expertise to ensure a successful gather-

ing of the tribes.

The events will cover aspects related to various tribal agriculture endeavors, including marketing and sales development, conservation, dealing with government bureaucracy, and land and natural resources usage. The ‘Made by American Indian’ trademark, that lets consumers know they are buying authentic American Native products, will also be discussed.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida will showcase agricultural related businesses including cattle, sugarcane plantation, aquaculture, feed mill, orange and lemon groves, truck farming and packing sheds.

Seminole private sector will also have a chance to showcase their own products, including Alex and Willie Johns’s new Cow Creek sauces. Other items that will be on display include arts and crafts, patchwork, Seminole dolls, and James Billie’s cigars, music CD’s, Swamp Seasoning and beef jerky products.

Anyone wishing to showcase products should contact Richard Bowers at the cattle and range office at the Big Cypress Reservation at (954) 983-4141.

# Cattle & Range Building Getting Face Lift

**By Tommy Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — Brighton Cattle and Range offices on the Brighton Reservation are receiving a face-lift. The old steel frame building, built in 1972, will be replaced by a concrete block structure that will triple its office capacity from 2,000 square feet to a much-needed 6,800 square feet. The back warehouse room will be eliminated and be converted into much needed office space.

The conference room will be larger and will be able to accommodate cattle owners’ meetings and

4-H activities. A walk-in cooler will also be added to the building. The project, under the direction of Carolyn Billie, is well underway and should be completed by mid-May. All of the offices should be moved back by April.

The general contractor is Close Construction of Okeechobee. The building, when completed, will house all of the Board’s Natural Resources Projects, Cattle and Range, sugarcane, 4-H, land usage and water management offices.

# 4-H Livestock Auction Set

**By Tommy Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — It’s time to put the hammer down once again at the Brighton 4-H Sale Barn and Pavilion as the annual 4-H Show and Sale has been set for Feb. 18 at 1 p.m.

The 4-H show is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Feb. 19 and the sale will be after the buyer’s dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 19.

The steers once again had to come from Seminole Cattle herds, or from either of the Tribe’s Board Cattle operations — the Miccosukee

all our tribal reservations and approximately 70 hogs for auction.

“This is the largest number of steers we’ve ever had,” Polly said. “All of this could never get done without the help of our mass of volunteers. We the 4-H staff, Benny Hernandez, Billie Tiger, Sherry Gore, Liziana Bowers to name just a few. They deserve a big thank you.”

Rewards are hard to measure, but the Seminole 4-H program instills responsibility, builds character and shows that hard work and dedication to a project pays off. The 4-H program is sometimes a major stepping stone for many into the real world.

The buyer’s dinner will be coordinated by Debbie Johns and her volunteers from all the Seminole Reservations — Brighton, Big Cypress, Hollywood, Tampa, Immokalee, and Fort Pierce.



SIGN OF THE TIMES: 4-H season has arrived at Brighton.

lease, Board Cattle number 1, or from the Board cattle operation at Parker Island Board Cattle number 2.

The Seminole 4-H program is under the direction of director Polly Hayes and the Board of Representatives of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Polly announced the youth will have 30 steers from

# Tribe Displays Wares At Fair

**By Tommy Benn**  
**WEST PALM BEACH** — The Seminole Tribe of Florida participated in the South Florida Fair which ran from Jan. 12 – 28.

The Tribe had a booth in the Fair’s Agricultural Tent, which showcases agribusiness in the South Florida area. Polly Hayes, under the direction of Brighton Board Representative Alex Johns and Seminole Tribe of Florida Inc. President Mitchell Cypress, put together a spectacular display to do just that.

Lizina Bowers, Sherry Gore and Polly Hayes took turns manning the booth. A loop tape prepared by Seminole Broadcasting under the direction of

Danny Jumper and edited by Bruce Deitz and Bobby Frank and their staff, was also on display to show the vastness of Tribal businesses.

Photographs of the Tribe’s various enterprises showed off our shell rock mining operations, sugarcane plantation, cattle programs, grapefruit and lemon groves, 4-H programs, and tobacco sales.

Older photographs showed how far the Tribe’s agriculture enterprises have advanced since the early 1930s.

Many guests were surprised to see how many different business enterprises are based on the reservations. Many thought the Tribe survived only on the sale of cigarettes and bingo and gaming parlors.

# Marty Johns: Man With the Reins

**By Tommy Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — Marty Johns was elected by the membership in late October to take the reins of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA) from his Uncle Willie Johns. Marty, the son of Seminole rodeo legend Joshua Johns, has been around rodeo all his life. He has been a member of EIRA since its inception and is a man who knows rodeo’s in and out as a participant, a rodeo producer and a stock contractor. Marty was runner-up for the All-Around Indian last year. He was beat out by Naha Jumper by a mere 7 1/2 points.



(L-R): Cicero Osceola, Debbie DeHass, and Marty Johns.

Marty is a resident of the Brighton Community and serves as General Manager of the Seminole Brighton Bingo and Gaming facilities.

Willie Johns served as the association’s President for the past six years. Willie did an outstanding job and got a lot of things done for the good of EIRA. It won’t be easy to ride in Willie’s saddle. It’s not easy to take an idea, turn it into a reality and make it work. Willie and his slate of officers and directors did just that over the past six years.

“I know he’ll be around with his guidance and leadership, if I feel I’m at a crossroads and need his advice. Mistakes have been made and we all make mistakes, and because of those mistakes we early on, we won’t have to make the same ones twice,” said Marty.

do. They are all capable people, people who will get things done, that’s why they were elected – to do a job and to get it done right.

“Questions have been raised because of my rodeo promotions and stock contracting company, ‘MARKI,’ about a conflict of interest while being President of the EIRA and a rodeo promoter. I want to put everyone’s mind at ease. I want to put on the very best show possible. Willie both hats I believe will give me an edge, a double edge sword, seeing the full picture from both sides. I have to keep the best stock possible in order to produce the best possible show, and stock that will challenge the ability of the contestant. In turn, I want to put on the best show to draw the audience back.

“If ever I feel, or a director feels, that I might be prejudiced one way or another on a voting matter, I will simply excuse myself from the room and leave the meeting in the capable hands of the Vice President, Cicero Osceola, returning to the meeting room when the issue is resolved.

“Everyone connected with the EIRA wants the same final results, fairness, sportsmanship, and to put on a good performance for the enjoyment of the spectators. And as President those are my goals as well.

“The EIRA has all the necessary ingredients to be successful. We can put it all together and make it happen, and I believe with a little help and a lot of hard work, we will have a great next two years.”

“You’re only as good as your help, and there are some good people in the EIRA to draw from. You have to delegate or stagnate; you can’t do it all. My job to keep good people around me. They’ll do my job easier.”

“Debbie DeHass as Secretary/Treasurer and Cicero Osceola as Vice President will be an added pleasure to work with. They both want the best for the EIRA and will do what ever it takes to make things happen. They’ll do it with a positive attitude too.”

“The 2001 through 2003 EIRA Event Directors are a group of positive minded people I look forward to working with – Alex Johns, Robert Youngblood, Sidney Gore, Moses Jumper, Billie Tiger, Paul Bowers, Adam Turtle, David DeHass, Bonita Osceola as well as my sister Lisa Osceola. It won’t be a one-man show. They all have their jobs to

# Cicero Osceola, Lewis Rimes

# Take Team Roping Saddles

**By Tommy Benn**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — When it came right down to it and the Fat Lady sang at the third and final team roping saddle series sponsored by Moses Jumper and Seminole Recreation Jan. 13 at the Bill Osceola Arena in Hollywood, Cicero Osceola and Lewis Rimes came out on top.

The pair was part of a group of headers and heelers trying to get the needed points to take the Championship Saddle home with them. Coming into the final round, Cisero Osceola led the headers with 27 points, followed by Billie Tiger with 23. Willie Johns, Joe Hill and Cody Ariola were third with 13 points each.

Rudy Osceola lead the peelers with 25 points followed by Naha Jumper with 23 points while Josh Jumper had 13 points towards the heeler’s saddle.

The Round Robin competition was under way. When the counting was done Marty Johns roping, the heads for his brother-in-law Rodney Osceola with the combined time of 27.17 seconds on three head, came out on top winning \$340 each. Harold Keen caught three heads for his partner Lewis Rimes for a time of 28.86 seconds placing second to win

\$283.50 per man. Lewis Rimes also had three head turned for him by Josh Jumper and he and Josh took home the third place cash of \$227 apiece. Marvin Bowers with Rodney Osceola grabbed fourth place honors and \$170 on three head. George Humphries, doing the heading and Randy Rimes on the heels, held on to fifth place and carried home \$113.50 apiece.

For the day Harold Keen picked up 14 points while Marvin Bowers added 11 points to his total. Marty Johns and Josh Jumper each added 10 points towards the header’s saddle. Lewis Rimes on the heeler’s side added 20 points. Rodney Osceola picked up 18 points while Randy Rimes added 6 to his tally on the Saddle Series.

Cicero Osceola with the heeler’s saddle with a total of 27 points. Billie Tiger held onto second place with her 23 points, while Marty Johns’ 15 points were good enough for third.

Lewis Rimes won the heeler’s saddle by gathering 30 points during the three roping contests. Josh Jumper counted 28 points for a second place finish. The “Seminole Legend,” Rudy Osceola, held down third place with 25 points.

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## Indian Country News

### Vegas Gaming To Bay Area?

WASHINGTON D.C. — Circumventing the Interior Department and the California governor, Democratic Rep. George Miller quietly pushed through a 10-acre reservation — ten miles from downtown San Francisco — for the landless Lytton Rancheria band of 220 Indians that could open the Bay area to Las Vegas-style gambling.

### Michigan Sues Tribes

TRAVERSE CITY, MI — The state is preparing a lawsuit to argue that the five federally recognized Indian tribes in Michigan no longer have inland hunting and fishing treaty rights. The new suit will revolve around whether the Treaty of 1836 — which was legally deemed to give the five tribes widespread access to commercial fishing within the Great Lakes waters included in the treaty — also covers fishing, hunting and trapping by tribal members within inland lakes, streams and public lands.

### Tribes Endorse NAHASDA

WASHINGTON D.C. — Tribes have endorsed the Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act, saying the law, up for reauthorization this year, has doubled and tripled housing production on reservations. Tribal housing leaders also asked for a 69 percent increase in funding, to \$1.1 billion a year, to take care of unmet housing needs.

### Tribal Community Grants

WASHINGTON D.C. — Thirty-eight American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal communities will receive nearly \$8 million in grants to help prevent and control youth violence and substance abuse, the Justice Department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) announced. Grants will support accountability-based sanctions, training for juvenile court judges, strengthening family bonds, substance abuse counseling and other programs.

Awards were given to: Cook Inlet Tribal Council; \$165,504; Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.; \$498,475; Hydaburg Cooperative Association; \$75,000; Knik Tribal Council; \$100,000; Fort Mc Dowell Yavapai Nation; \$75,000; Gila River Indian Community; \$467,470; Mechoopda Indian Tribe; \$75,000; Southern Ute Indian Tribe; \$99,966; Nez Perce Tribe; \$100,000; Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation; \$99,361; Bay Mills Indian Community; \$75,000; Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians; \$79,054; Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians; \$100,000; White Earth Reservation Tribal Council; Fort Belknap Indian Community; \$100,000; Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes; \$492,159; Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes; \$250,000; Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians; \$492,963; Standing Rock Sioux Tribe; \$249,999; Pueblo of San Felipe; \$100,000;

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation; \$100,000; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC); \$100,000; St. Regis Mohawk Tribe; \$100,000; The Chickasaw Nation; \$498,170; OK; Concho; Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma; \$250,000; Citizen Potawatomi Nation; \$497,566; Burns Paiute Indian Reservation; \$75,000; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians; \$75,000; Coquille Indian Tribe; \$75,000; Cheyenne Sioux Tribe; \$470,617; Lower Brule Sioux Tribe TEAM Program; \$100,000; Rosebud Sioux Tribe; \$471,017; Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo; \$74,719; Jamez Indian S'Klallam Tribe; \$75,000; South Puget Intertribal Planning Agency; Lower Brule Sioux Tribe TEAM Program; \$100,000; \$99,974; The Healing Lodge of the Seven Nations; \$162,317; Kalispel Tribe of Indians; \$73,352; The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa/ Bad River Family Preservation and Support; \$171,498.

### Museum Takes Old Canoe

STARKE — The Gene Matthews Museum has agreed to house an old canoe found by a local resident. The canoe found near here was tested by state archaeologists and found to have been built between 660 and 900 A.D.

### Martin To Get BIA Job?

WASHINGTON D.C. — Poarch Creek leader Tim Martin has emerged as an early favorite for the job of Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.

Martin is currently executive director of the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET). "Anything that the BIA has been involved in the last 10 years, I have been involved in," Martin said. "As executive director of USET, I am a coalition builder and a technician."

His competition includes Gaiaskibos, Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa chairman and former president of the National Congress of American Indians; Phil Hogan, Oglala Lakota, a former U.S attorney for South Dakota and the first director of the Office of American Indian Trust in the Department of Interior during the first Bush administration; David Tippeconnic, Comanche/Cherokee, former president of Phillips 66 Petroleum/Cherokee, Citco Petroleum; and Jana McKeag, an attorney who formerly served on the National Indian Gaming Commission.

### Code Talker Not Impressed

GALLUP, NM — Thomas Begay, 74, a Code Talker with the U.S Marines 5th Division on Iwo Jima, is disappointed President Clinton decided to honor him with a Congressional Gold Medal instead of the more coveted Medal of Honor.

"We should get a medal of distinction, not some medal you could buy at a flea market. If what we did wasn't above and beyond the call of duty, I don't know what is," Begay said.

— Compiled by Peter B. Gallagher.

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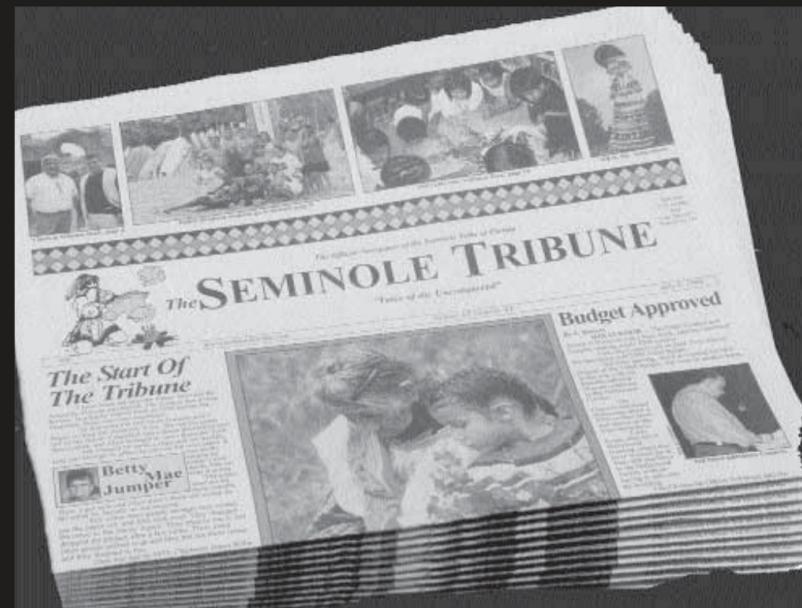
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# Cowbone

Squinting by the firelight, fingers tweaking a tiny black dial, the rural songwriter finds radio WSM through the gleeks and the crackles of his two-dollar Motorola brand battery powered transistor radio. He twists the coat hanger antennae just right and out jumps Little Jimmy Dickens catchin' an old cold tater and wait on the Friday night Grand Ole Opry. Tweak it some more and the noisebox puts out the lilt and lollar of Hank Williams' voice and the imagination takes control: a nightbird screams, moonrise clears the tree moss, a pain of lost love spears the heart and the world so far from Nashville is so lonesome he could cry.

Then when the wind blows a certain way and the signal swoons into a cacophony of Cuban rhetoric and multi-garble, he picks up an old Kay acoustic guitar and starts to strum and croon. His voice is so close to howlin' that a tune of songbirds could divebomb every hound on the reservation and never draw out a better bay. The best is slow like drips of blackstrap and as individual as a slice of pumpkin pie. Through the sweltering summer nights and crisp fall snaps, the melodies roll on sure and straight as a brand new Uniroyal on a fresh laid moist asphalt road.

This romantic stereotype, claimed by many, is owned by one man. Paul Buster is a Seminole Indian who grew up in the most remote wilderness east of the Mississippi, a place called Big Cypress on the very edge of the radio signal atmospheres, where fish have gator-teeth, the bears walk around like men and the record producers are too scared to scout for new talent.

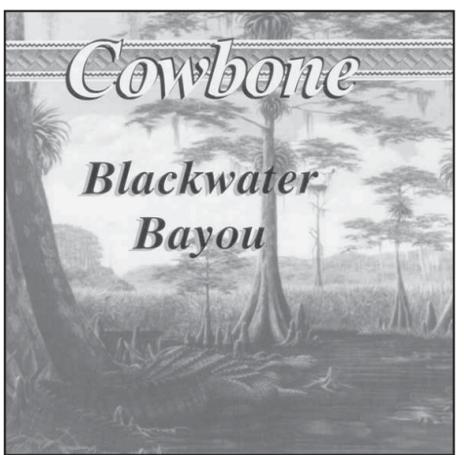
A Miccosukee speaker, the young Paul Buster had no idea what the words meant in the songs he memorized from the radio. But he sang them anyway in the back seat of the family's rickety '40 Ford. His mother, Mary Annie Osceola Buster, knew, though. She spent her life savings - her last dollar, Paul describes it - on his first guitar.

People in these parts call Paul what his dad branded him: Cowbone; that's the place in the swamp where the lost cows go and can't find their way back out. That's the space of mind where Paul Buster comes from and you can hear it.

Ironically, Paul is joined here by some of the hottest pickers in Nashville, the faraway world inside his old transistor radio. Oh, the lure actually shined him to Music City once and he jumped onstage at Tootsie's like every other songwritin' dreamer. There he saw the light and he came right back home to raise his family, a whole lot of cows, and a personal musical catalogue well known about the South Florida outback.

Enter the world of Paul Buster. You may close your eyes and dream, but don't get too lost. The panther screams, the otter swims and the bones are bleached at Cowbone. Sho naa bish.

— Peter B. Gallagher



Cowbone's CD was produced by Jim Bickerstaff.

# Jessica Buster

When Seminole Indian teenager Jessica Buster digs around her family tree, she finds musicians under nearly every root. Her grandfather Junior Buster played an old mail order guitar around the reservation. Her father Paul Buster is well known in the South Florida for his singing and songwriting. Her brother Ira is a drummer. Her brother Chunky plays just about everything and writes songs. Her late brother Sigmund played bass guitar. And sometimes they all play together in a band called Cowbone.

It never occurred to Jessica to rebel from all the music swirling about her. She has chosen to continue the family tradition, adding her super sweet, bone dry vocals (and sometimes a little rhythm on the trap set) to the Buster music Seminole swamp dynasty. Only 17 years old, this is her first professional record and the songs are her favorites, from the Hank Williams classics *Jambalaya* and *Hey Good Lookin'* and the touching *Honky Tonk Angels* duet she sings with her father to the Lynard Skynard classic *Free Bird* she quietly sings for Sigmund.

Thin and pretty, with a wide wonderful smile, Jessica sings with a measured quietness of the church singer she becomes on Sunday, and the hypnotic euphony common to the best young female singers of today. One of the most accomplished young Seminoles, Jessica now adds her own personal roots to the musical foundation of the Buster family tree.

— Peter B. Gallagher



Jessica follows family footsteps to music fame.

# Seminole Casino News

**Immokalee Seminole Indian Casino** - 506 S. First St., Immokalee, FL 34142, phone (941) 658-1313 or (800) 218-0007.

Mardi Gras New Orleans Style - One Day Mardi Gras Seminole Indian Casino Style - One Month! Immokalee Seminole Indian Casino is celebrating all month with special events, music, and prizes.

JPC members will celebrate Mardi Gras Madness on Saturday Feb. 10 when they will receive a beautiful music box upon purchase of their pack and admission receipt. The music box is yours to keep and could be worth up to \$500 in the matinee and \$1,000 in the evening session. If you're not a member, you may sign up for free anytime prior to the session.

Super Saturday Feb. 24 a drawing will be held for a fabulous 12 - 14 day cruise to Europe or the Mediterranean aboard Celebrity Cruise Lines Millennium or Galaxy. Casino, Poker and Bingo players have all month long to collect their tickets for entry.

The Creole Zydeco Farmers will be appearing Feb. 23 - 26. This group of multi-talented musicians has traveled throughout this country and Europe introducing their brand of Cajun music and

making converts wherever they appear. Poker tournaments continue every Tuesday and Saturday with prizes up to \$500.

Poker room staff is still requesting your input on holding weekly Hold'em Hi-Lo No Limit Tournaments. Please contact the staff personally or call (800) 218-0007 ext. 242.

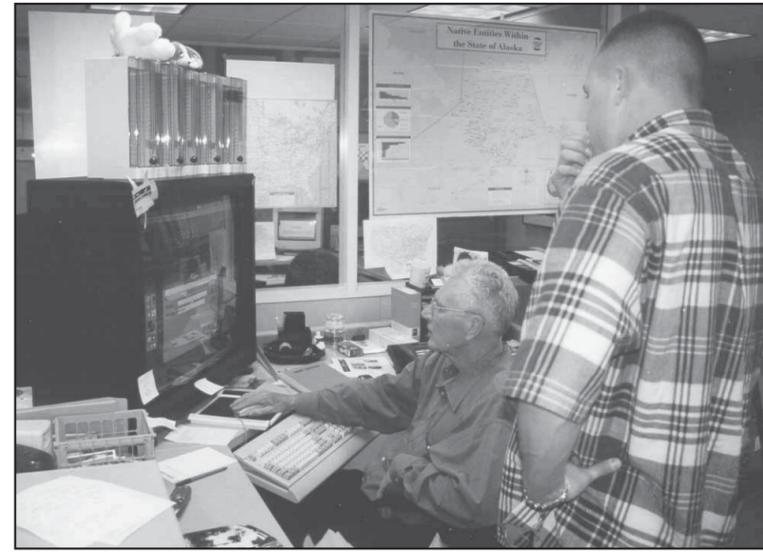
**Coconut Creek Casino** - 5550 N.W. 40th St., Coconut Creek, FL. 33073, phone (954) 977-6700.

Put on your blue suede shoes and come rock 'n roll and doo-wop with us at our 50s revival on Feb. 25.

We're having a huge antique classic car show on site from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. and sounds by *Legacy* as they play all of your favorites from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. center stage in the casino. There will be a grand prize stereo system including CD's of the 50s and 60s awarded to one lucky winner.

Mark your calendar now for March 24 - 25 when Coconut Creek Casino celebrates our one-year anniversary weekend. Look for more information in the March 2 issue of the *Seminole Tribune*.

January's winner of the large screen TV was Leo Klebanow, who was watching the Super Bowl that evening in grand style. Congratulations to Leo and thanks to all those who entered the contest.



The Smithsonian's Dr. William Sturtevant spent the afternoon recently at the Seminole Tribune researching photos with Tribune's Archivist Ernie Tiger.

# Maybe We Can Help?

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HUMOR

# Dead Lines

So here I am Raiford Starke with deadline fever again. You see, the only way that I can get anything done is when we are at — or a little bit past — the deadline. And I ain't talkin' 'bout that little-wussy-penny-ante writer's deadline, Ah — say — ah'm a-talkin' about the production deadline son! This is the day that all the copy gets sent to the printer. One hour from now to be exact. Time to hit the bricks.

Deadline Fever. It's a sickness . . . that's buried . . . deep inside of me. I look over in the production room. No doubt Princess the layout girl is — eh — how would you say it? — slightly peeved at me again. "Way to go Raiford!" she says with more than just a hint of bilious sarcasm, "Thanks to you, we're going to have to work late! That means I'm going to have to miss dinner at home which will make my husband want to kill you!"

It wouldn't be the first time a woman's husband wanted to kill ol' Raiford Starke. No siree. Still, I can feel the pressure. That's great! Raiford Starke thrives on pressure. When somebody presses that barrel against your head and you know that finger's just a-itchin' on that trigger — well — that's the kind of pressure that gets a cretin like me creatin'!

I can feel the fog of writer's block lifting. "So here I am Raiford Starke with the deadline fever again," I type, "You see the only way that I can get anything done is . . ."

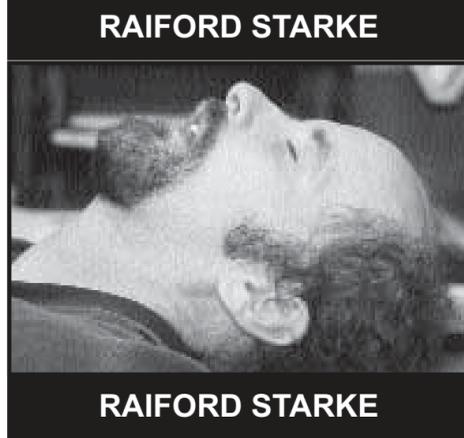
Nah. Maybe we better delete that and try something else. Caught up: "So here I go Raiford Starke how about in a deadlock . . ."

I don't know. I guess I'll go back to the old way — this time with a comma after the word "am." "So here I am, Raiford Starke," I write. Slowly, but surely, the clouds disperse, rays of sunshine start sneaking through, the fluorescent light starts flickering — boy I can feel those wheels turning now! A vein is severed, blood gushes all over the blank page. Well what do you know, I really did have something to say after all! I hand my finished copy (as we like to call it in the news biz!) to ol' Pete from Sunset Beach for proof-reading and editing.

"It looks pretty good, man," Pete says thumbing through the 20-plus typed pages. "This might be your best one yet. It's gonna take a whole bottle of humor spray, but I'll fix it." And thus, yet another Raiford Starke column is born . . .

I can hear the office girls giggling.

"What's so funny?" I say. "The paper got sent out over an hour ago. We tricked you. Now you've got your column done early for the next issue!" Queen Graphica laughed. "Y-y-you mean I'm not gonna be in this issue?!"



RAIFORD STARKE

RAIFORD STARKE

"Sorry buddy," said Sunset Beach, "There's a new system in place. A new administration's in charge. Your old ways won't survive anymore. You've got to make the *writer's* deadline from now on."

So that's it. They think they can put one over on ol' Raiford Starke just so they can get out of doing a little extra work do they? Why-y-y . . .

"Gimme that column!" I snapped as I snatched that copy out of startled Beach's hand and proceeded to turn it into confetti for DUBYA's Inaugural Day parade. "I'll teach you to impose artificial deadlines on ol' Raiford Starke!"

I stuck another piece of onion-skin through the rollin' pin of that rickety ol' 1934 Smith-Corona and the spirit of Orson Welles came over me. "We will serve no Raiford Starke column before its time!" I proclaimed as I let myself immediately get easily distracted from the task at hand. After repeatedly referring to the Rush Limbaugh website while bantering with Chuckles about the vote recounts . . . And after drooling over the Princess for at least an hour . . . Only then — did I commence to writing the *new* Raiford Starke column. The one that will not be in *this* issue of the *Starkansaw Tribune* but the *next* one.

"So here I am, Raiford Starke," I type, "with the deadline fever again. You see the only way I can get anything done . . ."

— Visit Raiford Starke's website at [www.seminoletribe.com/raiford/](http://www.seminoletribe.com/raiford/).

# Saving Native American Music Starts Here

By Charles Flowers  
**HOLLYWOOD** — HOLLYWOOD — the state of Native American music is A) Better than it's ever been, or B) In need of better production, marketing and distribution?

The answer is C: Both.

With Native American music a category for its first GRAMMY Award later this month in Los Angeles, a half-dozen prominent GRAMMY members met under a fig tree at the Okalee Museum last month and discussed the state of the art.

The news was good — and bad.

Panelists included the prolific flautist R. Carlos Nakai, who has produced 37 albums in his career after trading beadwork for Comanche flutes at the Sante Fe Market; Latin sensation Nestor Torres who jammed with Miccosukee brother act Tiger Tiger, SOAR producer Tom Bee, who brought Chief Jim Billie to compact disc, and Ellen Bello, who started the Native American Music Awards less than five years ago, and gave one to Chief Billie in 1999.

Their perspectives were varied, but passionately delivered. The performances, which also included Sonny Nevaquaya, and the fabulous Seminole youth dancers, weren't bad, either.



PANELISTS: (l-r) Carlos Nakai, Nestor Torres, and Ellen Bello discuss music.

Tom Gallatier

Native tongues — and Joanne Shenandoah, an Oneida songstress who has performed with her sister at the Broward Mall — singing songs in English for a decidedly non-Native crowd. Her album is called "Peacemaker's Journey."

Not surprisingly, Shenandoah is considered the early favorite for the award.

But, for the record, the other four are: the Black Lodge Singers for "Tribute to the Elders," Joseph Fire Crow for "Cheyenne Nation," Lakota Thunder for "Veterans Songs," and various artists for "Gathering of Nations Pow Wow." Bee produced this last entry.

Bee, a veteran of Motown productions in the 1970s, said he wanted his SOAR label, based in Albuquerque, N.M. to be a "little Motown." With sales of less than 1 percent of the estimated \$45 billion world music market, Native American music is a long way from being a dominant genre. But, with annual sales approaching \$500 million, according to Bee, it is being heard.

"We haven't even begun to scratch the surface," Bee said.

Torres offered this advice to Lee Tiger, who asked how Native American musicians in South Florida, could "get our Latin friends to get the door open a little farther."

"There is tremendous power in your music," Torres answered. "There is tremendous power in your very presence."

One complaint voiced by several panelists was the lack of unity among Native American tribes themselves, to promote their own artists and music. Bello, a non-Native based in New York, said that only a handful of tribes, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe of Connecticut and the Sandia Pueblo of New Mexico, supported the Native American Music Association.

She agreed with suggestions that tribes might want to form a foundation to help further all Native American musical forms — from hip-hop to traditional.

"We make a sincere effort not to be political," Bello said.

The GRAMMYS will be broadcast live on CBS-TV on Feb. 21.



Tiger Tiger (Lee and Stephen Tiger) perform with Nestor Torres.

Charles Flowers

Nakai offered this perspective on the audience for Native American music:

"They've still learning what our music is all about," he said. "Here we are in the 21st Century, and we're going to see who gets the first traditional GRAMMY award."

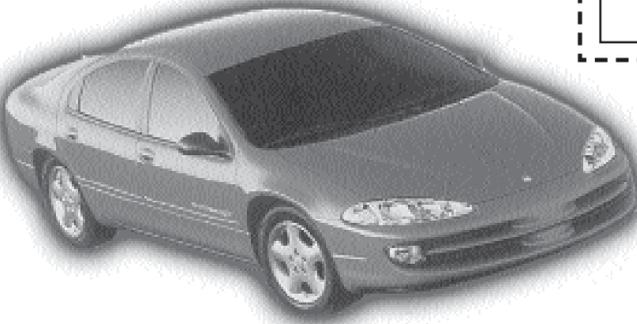
Bee, who wore label of "renegade" with pride, summed up the general opinion of the GRAMMY category for "Best

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# USET

Continued from page 1

office building, the very day Bush appointee Gale Norton was confirmed as Secretary of Interior. "I just don't believe he said it in that context."

Campbell said he received assurances from Norton that she would not pick the new head of the Bureau of Indian



Capitol, like White House, has new occupants.

Affairs, to replace Kevin Gover who resigned in December, without consulting with his committee. One leading candidate, endorsed unanimously by the USET member tribes, is USET executive director James T. Martin. If appointed, Martin, a member of the Poarch Band of Alabama Creek Indians, would be the first BIA chief from an Eastern tribe in more than 20 years.

Another key Republican vacancy is a senator on the Indian Affairs Committee to replace long-time Indian foe Slade Gorton, ousted in Washington by 2,229 votes. The only state election closer was the Bush win in Florida. The winner — whose victory tied the Senate at 50-50 — was industry millionaire Maria Cantwell.

Despite the scarcity of Republican leaders at the USET meeting (only Campbell and U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth of Arizona spoke at the reception), they were never far from the minds of the Indian leaders of the 24 member tribes.

Another group of more than 100 Indian leaders, representing 45 tribes and 17 organizations, met in Hawaii earlier in January at the request of Sen. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii), to press their agenda. Those leaders, representing mostly Western tribes, whittled their list to five: Economic development, self-government, telecommunications, tribal land into trust, and education.

In his speech to the USET board Jan. 29, Inouye said the tribes should also streamline their representatives to an elite group of 10 for a meeting with President Bush, as early as this month.

"Like your ancestors, Indian Country should be thinking about sending ambassadors, Chiefs who sat with the President and discussed matters of great

importance," Inouye said. "First and foremost is the issue of sovereignty."

Inouye, who also sits on the Indian Affairs committee in the Senate, stressed that composing such a team would be a challenge to America's nearly 560 recognized tribes.

"On many issues, Indian Country has not been able to get together," he said. Inouye added that such a meeting should be more than a "photo opportunity" to show off "Bush II winners" "with feathers on their heads." "It should not be a circus sideshow," he said. "But a real, down-to-business meeting." The only enrolled Native American in the House of Representatives is freshman Rep. Brad Carson (D-Okla.), a member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. Carson met with at least two USET contingents, including the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from North Carolina, and representatives of the Gay Head Band of Wampanoag Indians of Massachusetts, who were accompanied by this reporter. "As a freshman Democrat, I don't know how much influence I can have," Carson said, adding that "a large number of Cherokees, including Chad Smith, the chief of the Cherokees, are Republicans."

### 'To The Death'

Carson, like other senators, con-



Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell meets Dr. Patricia Wickman.

gressmen, and their staffs, was apprised of many pressing Indian issues where Tribes may seek federal intervention. One is an ongoing legal fight involving Maine's Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe who have sued three paper companies over tribal permission the companies have requested in an water pollution dispute. The Maine tribes claim the state

Freedom of Information laws are being used to silence them, in an effort to skirt the federal authority for setting water quality standards.

Another hot button issue involves cellular tower construction on ancestral lands.

The Seminole Tribe is a party to a two-year-old federal suit filed by the State of Florida against former Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to stop him from issuing rules that would allow the Tribe all the games currently offered at its five casinos. Florida Attorney General Bob Butterworth has challenged Interior's authority to issue rules. That authority derives from the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, passed by Congress in 1988 to allow Indian tribes to limited gaming, with state compacts.

More recent Interior guidelines would extend those limits even farther in the Tribe's favor. According to a letter received by Tribal Counsel Jim Shore two weeks ago, the Tribe could raise table limits on some card games, and offer other types of electronic pull-tab and Lotto machines not now in place.



Sen. Daniel Inouye (second from left) receives applause from USET leaders.

non-BIA schools, either public or private.)

The IHS funding highlights the largest increases in history for on-reservation clinics, and \$100 million for diabetes programs spread over three years. Diabetes claims a disproportionately large number of Indian lives. The USET board voted to continue the current method of distributing funds earmarked for diabetes in FY 2001 to allow the money to be allocated quickly, while looking to change the method for the following two years.

Other significant increases over FY 2000 include \$372 million for increasing law enforcement officers and equipment on Indian land, and \$650 million in block grants for Indian Housing, a \$30 million increase. Also approved were extensions of the Clinton Administration's welfare reform package of welfare-to-work grants, \$25 million for Individual Development Accounts to encourage saving, and a policy change that allows food stamp recipients to own reliable cars without losing their eligibility.

To address the so-called Digital Divide, the FY 2001 budget calls for \$10 million for the Native Americans to pursue information technology, including grants to tribal colleges for networking and access, as well as support for new courses in these areas.

Lynn Cutler, former President Clinton's special assistant, listed all these budgetary increases, as achievements, saying, "We've raised the bar on funding levels and on programs that may be the most lasting part of our legacy."

However, Sen. Campbell disputed their authorship. "It wasn't their initia-

"marriage penalty." If enacted, all of these proposals would eat up 85 percent of the currently projected cumulative 10-year budget surplus of \$2.6 trillion, according to Senate minority leader Tom Daschle (D-S.D.)

"Republican congressional leaders can no longer criticize the White House for stalling their agenda," said a report from the D.C. law firm Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker, which represents the Seminoles and a consortium of other Tribes. "Democrats cannot rely on a Presidential veto as cover to avoid going on record in opposition to popular measures they dislike. Any successful legislation must mobilize the support of moderates from both parties to navigate the razor thin majorities in both houses of Congress."

Bush has said he can govern from the center. Now, say Indian leaders, let's see him do it.

A consensus clear direction has been the growing political awareness of American Indians. Cutler and Inouye each said the 2000 election produced a historically high voter turnout.

Inouye quoted a study that found high Indian voter turnout in Washington State — 67 percent — that likely swung the Senate election there away from incumbent Slade Gorton.

"We (Democrats) carried New Mexico because of the Pueblos," Cutler added. "Some reservations in Montana had voter turnout as high as 80 percent. I only wish we'd found a few more Seminoles in Florida."

"The net effect is to validate everything the Tribe is doing, and to allow them to do a lot more," said D.C. attorney Jerry Straus, commenting on the proposed rules, which require Interior to set up a meeting between the parties within 30 days.

Commented George Skibine, director of the Office of Indian Gaming Management for the BIA: "If they (Florida) decide to pull out, it will mean they will definitely decide to litigate this matter... to the death."

A special Tribal Council meeting on the proposed gaming rules, set for Jan. 30, was postponed.

The way those issues play out may say more about the Bush Administration than rhetoric. But another major acid test is financial: how much of the \$9.1 billion appropriated for Fiscal 2001 by the outgoing Clinton-Gore Administration for Indian Country survive the new regime?

This includes \$2.6 billion for the Indian Health Service, almost \$300 million for BIA-funded schools (including Ahfachkee), and \$256 million through the Department of Transportation for roads in Indian Country. (Nationally, according to Anthony Thompson, an Oklahoma Choctaw who works in the U.S. Department of Education, 90 percent of Indian students attend



Lynn Cutler, former President Clinton's special assistant: "We've raised the bar."

tive," he huffed. "A lot of those things originated in our committee."

Against the outgoing Clinton's claims stand President Bush's campaign pledge to cut income taxes, eliminate the estate tax, and alleviate the so-called

*This is the first of a series of articles from the USET convention. Future topics include the fight over cellular tower construction, and a status report on the Museum of the American Indian, scheduled to open in 2003.*



George Skibine, director of the BIA's Office of Indian Gaming Management.

## Summary Of Key USET Resolutions

Resolutions in support of the Maine tribes' suit against that state over the state's attempt to take over water pollution permitting authority from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

A resolution in favor of a programmatic agreement between Personal Communication Industry Associates (PCIA), a national wireless communications association, and the Culture and Heritage Committee of USET "to ensure the participation of the USET Tribes" in the permitting process for cell towers.

A resolution asking for a public apology if the report is accurate that the Piscataway Nation of Maryland represented all northeastern and southeastern tribes at the groundbreaking for the National Museum of the American Indian. The resolution states "the so-called Piscataway Nation" is a non-Federal recognized group and not a Tribe as defined by Federal law.

A resolution supporting the Catawba Indian Nation of South Carolina, a USET member tribe, in its efforts to provide spiritual support to Indian incarcerated by the State of South Carolina.

A resolution supporting the National Labor Relations Board's long-standing position that Indian nations are not subject to the National Labor Relations Act. That position has been challenged by the NLRB's own general counsel in a court case involving the Pueblo of San Juan.

A resolution opposing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) attempts to impose income taxes on the assets contributed by USET tribes to trusts for minors, and on the income generated by those trusts as a threat to tribal sovereignty.

A resolution opposing an IRS effort to a federal excise tax on the sale of paper pull-tabs by Indian gaming enterprises. The U.S. Supreme Court has elected to review two lower court cases that conflict on the issue.

A resolution calling for specialized bureaus within the U.S. Attorneys' office for crimes committed in Indian Country. The resolution says that Tribal police "are hampered in the effective discharge of their duties by U.S. Attorneys and state and local law enforcement."

A resolution supporting a youth conference to address alcohol and substance abuse in tribal communities. One was held in August 2000.

A resolution requesting Congress provide adequate funding for Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and loan guarantees for economic development, and expanding tax incentives available to non-Indian companies that do business in Indian Country.

A resolution requesting an additional \$12.8 million from the Indian Health Service for American Indian/Alaskan Native scholarships to help fund the future development of Native American health professionals.

A resolution opposing a proposed initiative of the Bush Administration entitled "Strong Families, Safe Children" which the USET board said "fails to address the unique needs of Indian families, children and tribal governments." The resolution says the Bush initiative also fails to support the requirements of the Indian Child Welfare Act, ignores "culturally appropriate" definitions of "permanence" and "family," and proposes \$1 billion in funding to states without considering funding to Tribes for similar services.

A resolution and position paper on taxation and sovereignty which declares: "1) Indian nations are not subject to taxation by other governments, and 2) Indian nations have the power to impose their own taxes on persons and transactions within their jurisdictions, and 3) The sovereignty and independence of Indian nations preclude external governments from forcing Indian nations and their members to act as tax collectors for the states..."

Resolutions supporting Dr. Michael Trujillo to complete his term as director of the Indian Health Service, and endorsing James T. Martin as assistant secretary for Indian Affairs.

**For details of these and other resolutions passed by USET, log onto their website at [www.uset.org](http://www.uset.org).**

## Seminole Foster Care Parents Needed

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

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

Each reservation houses numerous Tribal members who are raising strong and healthy children, rich in cultural beliefs and traditional values. Some of these families have opened their doors and hearts to other chil-

dren in need of their strength and guidance, and given these children the chance to share in the traditions of the Tribe. It is a lot to ask, but remember how the elders have taught us to give back some of our knowledge and strength of caring, to stand firm in what we believe in, to help one another. The love for our people has been rekindled.

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

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



Guy LaBree painting, Fire, captures a moment in Seminole history when families were at the mercy of nature, in this case, a fire that raged across the Everglades. His realism is what makes LaBree's work so prized.

# Reception Honors Artist Guy LaBree

**ST. PETERSBURG** – Guy LaBree, who has made a career out of painting the Seminole, was honored by the Tribe, Feb. 2, with a reception in his honor at the St. Petersburg Historical Museum.

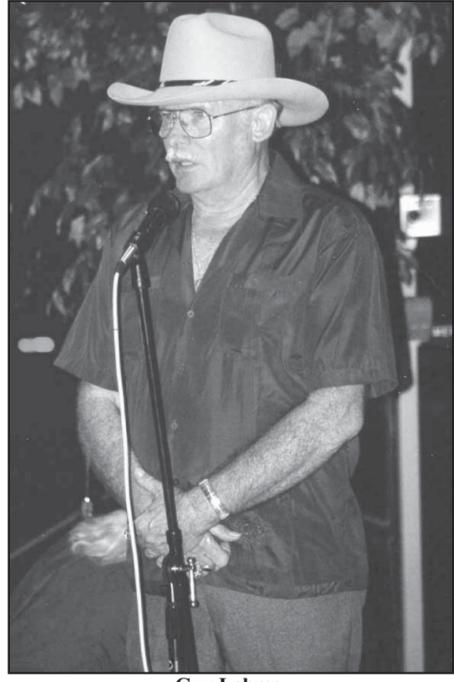
Speeches, music, dance and some good-natured ribbing highlighted the gala night in LaBree's honor, which concurred with the opening of a stunning six-week show of his artwork at the museum, located in downtown St. Petersburg on The Pier approach.

It was also the kickoff event for Discover Native America 2001, the Powwow and American Indian Music Festival co-sponsored by the Seminole Tribe and Eckerd College. The main event is scheduled for March 3 and 4 on the Eckerd campus.

Renowned flautist Sonny Nevaquaya captivated the start of the evening with original compositions while guests sampled *hors d'oeuvres* in the Museum foyer. Master of ceremonies Moses Jumper Jr. got the show started with a pair of poems, one about flute music, dedicated to Sonny, and another he recently penned for LaBree, himself.

Welcomes were given by Eckerd College trustee Jim Reed and Museum Director Mathias Bergendahl. Tribal Museum executive director Billy Cypress spoke of the great LaBree collection owned by the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and informed guests that a LaBree painting commissioned by the Tribe will hang in the new Museum of The American Indian, when it opens next year on the Mall in Washington D.C.

Author Betty Mae Jumper made a rare public appearance in honor of LaBree, who provided illustrations for her book *Legends Of The Seminoles*, published by Pineapple Press. "We tried to get an Indian artist to do it, but he said he would-



Guy LaBree

n't. That it was wrong to paint our legends," said Betty Mae. "So we went to Guy LaBree." Tribal gaming official Alan Jumper, a childhood

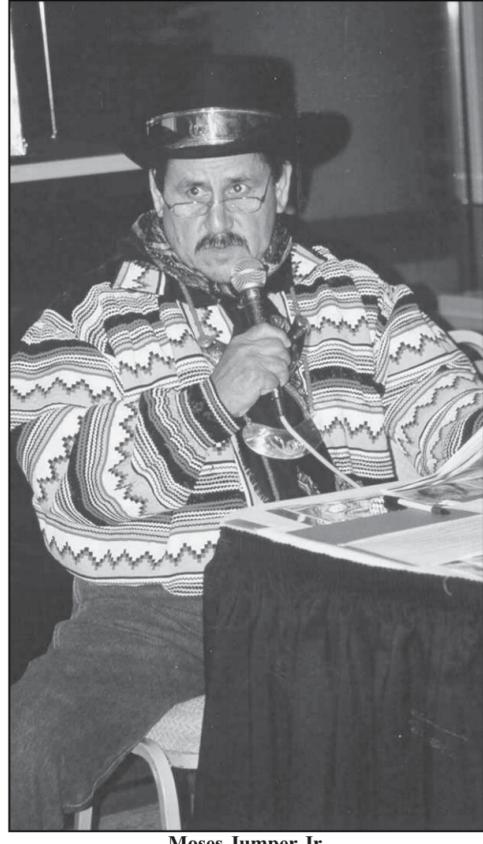
friend of LaBree's, took center stage for the next 40 minutes of his original Florida folk songs, the first time I knew he could draw was sitting in class watching him sketch in his notebook," said Jumper, who has maintained friendship and contact with LaBree for 50 years. "He would draw an alligator and it looked just like the 'gators we had at home. It was many years later that people knew Guy LaBree the artist, but I knew about it in the fourth grade!"

Folksinger Frank Thomas, joined by the *Seminole Tribune's* Raiford Starke, tuned up his guitar for two of his original Florida folk songs, the first "The Barefoot Artist" about LaBree and the second, a ballad about Aripeka (Sam Jones) requested by Seminole Chairman James Billie, whose appearance was cancelled due to a cold.

Finally, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki's representative Peggy Osceola stood to introduce the famed Seminole Youth Dancers, for an exciting demonstration of powwow dances that electrified the crowd. Led by singer/drummer William Cypress, the troupe included Casey and Christine McCall, William Osceola, and brothers Micco and Kowoko Billie.

Last but not least, LaBree – embarrassed and proud – took the stage to thank his friends and family for attending. Among his family in attendance was wife and lifetime partner Pat, daughter Cindy Wofford (with husband Will) from Port Charlotte, granddaughter Melissa Windle from Tampa, brother Tucker LaBree from Charleston, S.C., and niece Christy Munz (with husband Kent), also from Charleston. Friends Danny Tommie and his wife Jeanette, with their two children, made the drive from Big Cypress for the reception.

— Peter B. Gallagher  
Photos By Dan McDonald



Moses Jumper Jr.



Casey McCall



Alan Jumper



Betty Mae Jumper



William Cypress

In five minutes they will be on a school bus.  
Somebody on the bus may ask them if they want to try drugs.



*Now would be a good time to talk to them.*

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

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

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# Health Corner

## Reservation Rally 2001 Provided Exercise, Fun

**By Benny Secody**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — The morning of Saturday, Jan. 27 started out with a bang as runners and walkers from Big Cypress, Hollywood, Immokalee and Brighton lined up to participate in the Reservation Rally 2001 — one of the most attended fitness programs ever put on by the Seminole Health Department.

Over 40 individual awards in 16 different categories were at stake, but far and away, the most sought after prize was the coveted Reservation Rally Team Trophy, awarded to the reservation boasting the most participants entering the race. Big Cypress had 106 participants, Brighton had 89, Hollywood had 18 and Immokalee added 15 individuals to the mix.

"It took a long time to find a successful formula to help motivate people to become involved in fitness," said Connie Whidden, Seminole Health Director. "This event really motivated us because we are such a competitive group, and we're very happy it was such a success."

Much hard work went into the planning and implementation of the event. Connie spearheaded the 5K run/walk, but reported that many people were responsible. She thanked Tribal Chairman James Billie and all the Tribal Representatives who assisted in a variety of ways.

The Recreation Departments from each reservation provided sponsorship, expertise and manpower. David Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative and Master of the Awards ceremony, heartily congratulated each winner and together with Big Cypress team captains, Cathy and Candy Cypress accepted the team trophy for the Big Cypress Reservation.

Also noted in appreciation was the Seminole Police Department, for providing road safety, and Helene Buster who checked participants' blood sugar levels throughout the race.

Notable throughout the event was the spirit and sense of accomplishment. Spirit that came through the likes of Jack Smith Jr., Brighton Council Representative, who walked every step of

the way amidst the cheers of his teammates. Spirit that emanated from Alice Snow wheeling along the finish line with a smile a mile wide, and Elaine Aguilar, Immokalee Council Representative, who vowed she wouldn't get out of bed, but did, and then finished strong.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of all, apart from the good-natured competition among the participants, was the camaraderie of the political leaders, Tribal citizens, departments and programs all working together to make the event a success. President / Vice-Chairman

while. "We need something like this each quarter," the Chairman remarked as he made his way to collect his gold medal along with the other winners at the awards ceremony.

Although everyone who crossed the finish line is a winner, there were only so many trophies and awards. Those employees, men, women boys and girls who received trophies are:

- Employee Men Walkers:** Michael Onco (Big Cypress), Bo Young (Hollywood). **Employee Women Walkers:** Catherine Terburgh (Big Cypress), Suzanne Stans (Brighton).
- Employee Men Runners:** Spencer Mims (Big Cypress), Dr. Mavroides (Brighton).
- Employee women Runners:** Jody Goodman (Brighton), Candice Goodman (Brighton).
- Senior Men Walkers:** James Billie (Big Cypress), Russell Osceola (Brighton). **Senior Women Walkers:** Martha Jones (Big Cypress), Edna McDuffie (Big Cypress). **Senior Men Runners:** Rudy Osceola (Big Cypress), Buddy Sweat (Brighton).

- Community Boy Walkers (17 & under):** James Redwing (Hollywood), Joseph (Brighton). **Community Girl Walkers (17 & under):** Desiree Jumper (Big Cypress), April Billie (Big Cypress), Stephanie Hall (Big Cypress).
- Community Boy Runners (17 & under):** Bryan Arledge (Brighton), Moses Billie (Big Cypress), Dakotah Cypress (Big Cypress). **Community Girl Runners (17 & under):** Lysandra Osceola (Brighton), Mary Huff (Brighton), Rachel Billie (Brighton).

- Community Men Walkers (18 & over):** Arnold Cypress (Big Cypress), Charlie Cypress (Big Cypress), Gene Thomas (Brighton). **Community Women Walkers (18 & over):** Francine Osceola (Hollywood), Jimi Lu (Brighton), Leslie Billie (Big Cypress). **Community Men Runners (18 & over):** Jeremiah Hall (Big Cypress), Brian Billie (Big Cypress), Noah Yzaguirre (Immokalee).

- Community Women Runners (18 & over):** Cathy Cypress (Big Cypress), Loretta Paterson (Brighton), Mylyn Vedel (Big Cypress). **Best Dressed Award:** Brighton Reservation. **Individual Awards:** Big Cypress — 18, Brighton — 15, Hollywood — 4, Immokalee — 1.



The Reservation Rally 2001 held last month had outstanding turnout.

Mitchell Cypress acknowledged this by dedicating this first annual Reservation Rally to the memory of Cecil Johns, for his lifelong message of inspiration to people of all reservations and departments to work together to meet their common goals. (For more on Cecil Johns, please see page 5).

The weather could not have been better for this activity, which made the trek easier for the participants who ranged from age 1 minus (and were pushed in strollers by walking parents) - all the way up to some guys who (I was told), are older than dirt.

James Billie and other Tribal representatives thanked all those walkers and runners from the communities who participated, and challenged everyone to plan to attend next year's event. Mondo Tiger introduced his two sons who are attending school in Oklahoma. James Billie added humor with the comment that he only came because he heard Alice Snow was going to wear a thong.

But, when the jokes were finished, James was ready to compete and comfortably swept his category to claim first place, looking fit and trim all the



A svelte Mitchell Cypress goes over the rules: "Left, right, left!"



Brighton winners proudly wear their hard-earned medals.



B.C. captains Cathy and Candy Osceola hold trophy, while David Cypress hides.

## Special Thanks

I would like to thank all Representatives, Departments & Staff who worked together to make this event such a success.

- Connie Whidden
- James E. Billie, Chairman Mitchell Cypress, President/Vice Chairman
- David Cypress, BC Council Representative
- Jack Smith, Brighton Council Representative
- Max Osceola, Hollywood Council Representative
- Elaine Aguilar, Immokalee Council Representative
- Hollywood Recreation Staff
- Immokalee Recreation Staff
- Big Cypress Recreation Staff
- All Certified Community Fitness Leaders
- Vicky Barogiannis, Big Cypress Personal Trainer
- Kenny Banyon, Hollywood Personal Trainer
- Jody Goodman, Brighton Aerobics Instructor
- Swamp Safari Staff
- Communications Staff
- All Health Department Staff



David Cypress with Katlin and Candy Cypress, holding the B.C. team trophy.

## Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee Meeting Held

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Tribal Leaders Diabetes Committee Meeting, Jan. 7-9, hosted by the Chairman's Office, the President's Office and the Health Department, included 40 Tribal leaders from around the country and approximately 20 committee support staff.

President/Vice-Chairman, Mitchell Cypress and Health Department Director, Connie Whidden welcomed the group to South Florida and presented each with a Seminole Tribe Genealogy book filled with cultural literature, calendars, Seminole artists coloring book, historical video tape and brochures on the Health Department, museums, and Seminole gaming and casinos. The committee was also pleased with the opportunity to visit the Big Cypress Reservation where they enjoyed hobby rides, the Swamp Safari

Café and a tour through the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

President Cypress was honored by the Tribal Leaders Committee for his contribution to Native American health through his sharing of his personal experience with diabetes.

Cypress, along with several other Tribal citizens, will be featured in the April issue of *Health for Native Life*, a nationally acclaimed magazine dedicated to diabetes education.

Not comfortable with his place in the spotlight as a role model, Mitchell explained, "When people ask me about my health and the changes I have made to bring my sugar down, I don't tell them 'Hey, look at me and what I have done.' I tell them to give them encouragement that if I can do these things, others can too."

For more information on getting in shape contact the following:

- Brighton Reservation  
Jody Goodman  
Tuesday & Thursday evenings  
Phone (863) 763-8718
- Big Cypress  
Vicky Barogiannis  
Mon., Tues., & Wed. evenings  
Phone (863) 983-9659
- Hollywood Reservation  
Kenny Banyon  
By appointment  
Every day but Sunday  
Phone (954) 989-9457

Photos By Janice Billie



Some of the Reservation Rally participants are shown behind the starting line.

**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  
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# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday



**Happy 35th** to our "Little" baby, **Steve Osceola**, on Feb. 16. We all love you! **Mom, Jackie, Stephen, Rachel, Mitch and Sandi.**

**Happy belated Birthday** to **Dawayne Tigertail** on Feb. 16, 2001. May all your wishes come true and just remember you're not forgotten. **Love, Carolee Nelson.**

**Happy Birthday** to my nephew **Rob Damon Cypress**. Love, **Aunt Geein.**



**Happy 15th Birthday** **Angel Cypress**. Love your **Mommy, Krystle, Josh and Josie.**

**Happy Birthday Troy**. We hope that you will have lots of fun. Have a good - one. **Love, Shawn, Brandon, Terence, and Korvette.**

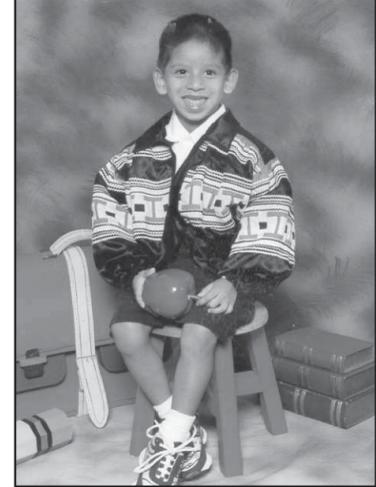
**Happy Birthday** to our "girl from Immokalee" who turns 14 on Feb. 1, 2001. We wish you all the best and many more to come. **Love, Aunt Geein.**



**Happy first birthday** to baby **Aaron Thasia Olejnik** on Jan. 14, 2001. It seems like yesterday you were just born, now you're starting to walk and talk. We're so proud of you son. Look at all the happiness and joy you brought to our lives since you popped out! **Love Mommy, Daddy** and the rest of the family (they know who they are).

Have a **Happy 12th Birthday** **Troy Billie** on Feb. 20. You are now learning what life is all about. We just want you to know when you have your crash-n-burns; we will always be there for you. **Love always, Mom & Dad (Selena & Keith) Billie.**

**Happy 4th Birthday** to **Ulysses Jim** on Feb. 4. Hope all of your wishes come true. **Mike Harrell and Courtney Jim.**



**Happy 4th Birthday** to **Ulysses Jim**. It seems like yesterday that I first met you. Now, four years have gone by already. Where did that time go? A day does not pass where; I don't see your smiling face to greet me at the world. We were destined to meet and I am grateful that I met you when I did. I am truly blessed.

Best wishes on your birthday and many more to come. I hope your wishes and dreams come true. **Love and kisses, Juliet.**

## Poems

### Remembering Cecil Johns

To all who had the pleasure of meeting with this special man. His genuine and spontaneous love for life will be missed. His way of always listening and lending a hand to family and friends was one way of his being a true and dear person. They always say the good die young. And well here it's definitely true. He had a heart of gold. His teaching the youth and younger groups of his special skills and talents is very well noticed by his family and friends. The time and efforts of his work will be seen all over the world. God is now watching over him and he will be always cherished throughout the family and friends whose lives he has reached. We all loved him and will always have a memory or two to remember him by. We will miss you so much Cecil Johns, and god's blessings will carry with you no matter where you go. Just letting you know, that you will be in our thoughts wherever you go. God's blessings to all who you have touched.

— Jane Rodz

### What I Think

The Highways are getting larger  
And my life is getting shorter  
The arena floors are getting harder  
Guess I'll sit back and enjoy my grand-daughter

I'm still tryin' to hang on to yesterday  
Tryin' to pretend that I'm doin' fine  
I can't move without my old bones crackin'  
ing  
Yet, I think it's just all in my mind

I can't even bounce a basketball anymore  
Without hitting by big belly  
Chevrolet and Bob Segar, still like a rock  
Cowbone's singing life is bowl full of jelly

Passing fifty isn't really bad at all  
5.0 is the hi-output, hi-performance  
But I feel like 0.5  
Shufflin' my feet like a chicken-dance

I used to keep up with young guys  
Now I'm watching the world go by  
But I'm not in the rocking chair, yet  
I'm just gonna keep on chuggin my oh my

Cell phones, TV remotes, and cruise controls  
Cloning your own woman or man  
Freeze yourself for later reference  
What are we coming to? I don't understand

This is what I think  
We need to "be happy and not worry"  
And do not fret about anything  
Then, you and I don't have to sorry

*Hem-mung-ala-ka*  
— Cowbone

## Notices

**Second Annual Florida Flute Retreat** - Feb. 22-25, the Second Annual Florida Flute Retreat will be held once again at Billie Swamp Safari. Last year's retreat was considered a great success by all attendees and almost all will be returning.

At the retreat you will learn how to make an authentic Native American flute under the direction of master flutist and flute maker, Sonny Nevaquaya. First time participants will make a replica of the plains flute. Returning participants and those with woodcarving experience will make duck flutes. We may also have a beadwork class but it hasn't been confirmed as yet.

For beginners and seasoned flutist, Nancy Abisoid will teach the tablature system developed by R. Carlos Nakia for the Native American flute.

Lodging and meals included in the four-day retreat package. One, two or three day packages are available. Discounted prices for tribal members.

For more information contact Sonny Nevaquaya at (954) 665-3255 or Christine Nevaquaya at (954) 966-6300 ext. 1462.

**The Haskell Indian Nations University Pow-wow** Committee proudly announces the 2001 Commemorative Pow-wow & Celebration, May 11 & 12, Lawrence, Kan. Come and join the largest Native American commencement celebration on the Haskell campus. Native American vendors and arts & crafts should contact either Patti Grant/Orosco at (785)749-8437 or Manny King at (785)749-8447 for further information. Join in the golf tournament, fast-pitch softball tournament and other alumni activities. Admission is charged at some events, or email: pgrant@ross1.cc.haskell.edu or mking@ross1.cc.haskell.edu

**1961 Haskell Graduates Sought LAWRENCE, Kan.** - Haskell Indian Nations University graduates of 1961 are hosting their 40th year Class Reunion in Lawrence, in conjunction with Homecoming weekend 2001, Oct 12-14.

All 1961 High School and Post-Graduates (Commercial & Vocational) of Haskell Institute, please contact us - even if you think you may not attend. And as always, all Haskell graduates are invited to participate in our activities.

All Alumni (no matter what year you attended), if you are interested in attending '61 activities, please call or write for a complete 1961 40th Reunion

information packet. Contact: Dempsey Micco, call (785) 842-8945, or write to P.O. Box 4175, Lawrence KS 66046; or Flo Tanner Spottedbear, call (918) 342-6403, or write to 2507 S. 4205 Road, Inola OK, 73046.

**Spiritual Poems Sought** - A \$1,000.00 grand prize is being offered in a special religious poetry contest sponsored by New Jersey Rainbows Poets, free to everyone. There are 28 prizes in all the totaling over \$3,000.00.

To enter, send one poem only of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB70, 103 N. Wood Ave., Linden, NJ 07036. Or enter on-line www.freecontest.com.

The deadline for entering is February 17, 2001. Poems may be written on any subject, using any style, as long as there is a spiritual inference. A typical poem might be a love poem, or nature poem, one that inspires. All entrants will receive a winner's list.

For more information please contact Dr. John Scribner: john@mighty.net  
**Group Offers New Scholarships** - The Association on American Indian Affairs (AAIA) announces two new scholarship programs: the AAIA/Florence Young Memorial Fellowship and the AAIA/Norman Crooks Memorial Scholarship.

"AAIA has been awarding scholarships to American Indian and Alaskan Native students under its four scholarships programs for over 50 years. The addition of these new programs adds more for those students struggling to stay in college," says President of the Board of Directors, Bradford Keeler, a member of the Cherokee Tribe. Keeler also reiterated the Association's long-standing commitment to education by stating, "Long has the Association recognized the need for more scholarship programs. Each year we receive over 3,000 requests for applications from American Indian and Alaskan Natives for the programs that we already offer. We've worked hard to build up the funds necessary to create our new programs.

The AAIA/Florence Young Memorial Fellowship was endowed by a gift from Mrs. Young to the Association on American Indian Affairs through her will. This scholarship is for graduate students and will be geared towards Mrs. Young's interests.

The scholarships already offered by AAIA are the Sequoyah Graduated Fellowship, the AAIA/Adolph van Pelt

Scholarship, the Displaced Homemakers Program and the Emergency Aid & Health Professions Scholarships.

Executive Director Jerry Flute cautions students that "... much of the information about our scholarship programs on various internet sites is incorrect, including some our deadline dates. Get your information directly from AAIA either through our web site www.indianaffairs.org or through direct contact with us via e-mail aaia@tmics.com, written communication to PO Box 268, Sisseton, SD 57262 or telephoning us at (605) 698-3998."

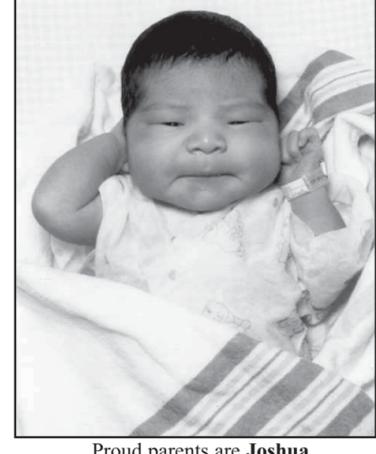
**Cub Scout Assistance Sought** - My name is Marty Jeffrey, assistant cub master for Pack 972 in Graingerland, Texas and the assistant Day Camp Director for the George Strake District Boy Scouts. Every year we have week long day camp where young boys come to have a lot of fun and learn something about nature, crafts and skills. This year our camp theme is the Sea Beneath and Beyond. We try to make each activity at these camps fun and related to our theme. American Indian culture, skills and values are an important part of each camp. Since we don't have any tribes here that have lived on the coast, I would like to find someone could assist me with some simple dance routines and more on the way of life on the water. I would also appreciate some assistance in locating some craft materials like sea shells, etc. for our camp activities. Thank for your time and once again any help that you might offer will be greatly appreciated by myself as well as the 900 hundred young men that attend the camp. Contact Marty Jeffrey at 20011 Lord Drive, New Caney, Texas 77357. Phone number is (281) 429-2157 or e-mail marty\_jeffrey@opc.oxy.com.

**Commencement Powwow Planned, LAWRENCE, Kan.** - The Haskell Indian Nations University 2001 Powwow Committee proudly announces the largest Native American Commencement celebration, May 11 - 12 in Lawrence, Kansas.

The committee invites American vendors and arts and crafts exhibitors to contact either Patti Grant/Orosco, (785) 749-8437 or Manny King, (785) 749-8447 for further information.

Join the celebration of activities including a golf tournament, fast-pitch softball tournament and other alumni activities. An admission fee is charged to some events.

## Newborns



Proud parents are **Joshua Osceola** and **Chawndra Billie** who would like to announce the birth of **Kadin's** beautiful baby sister, **Angelina Lauren Osceola**. Born on Jan. 10, 2001 at 7:38 a.m. 8lbs. 7oz. 20 inches. We love you.



**Ida Betty Osceola Padilla**, born on Dec. 21, 2000 at 8:15 a.m. Weight 8lbs., 8 oz. 20.3 inches. Proud parents are **Anthony and Heather Padilla**

## Education Notice

**BIG CYPRESS** - The GED test will be given in Big Cypress at the Frank Billie Center on April 23 - 25. Registration deadline is April 17. Contact Nena Bolan at the Big Cypress Learning Resource Center (863) 983-6659.

## Jobs

**Job Title:** A-Built CAD Drafter  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Utilities  
**Salary:** \$28,000 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Accounting Clerk/Junior Accountant  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Housing  
**Salary:** \$20,800 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Bookkeeper/Secretary  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Education  
**Salary:** \$24,627 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Gaming Investigator/Gaming Clerk  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Gaming  
**Salary:** \$17,200 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Gaming Inspector  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Gaming  
**Salary:** \$28,000 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Maintenance Worker  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hlwd, Building &

**Salary:** \$14,560 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Patient Accounts Coordinator  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Health/Managed Care  
**Salary:** \$19,864 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Patient Services Clerk  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hlwd, Health/Mng. Care  
**Salary:** \$17,600 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Records Retention Clerk  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Accounting  
**Salary:** \$18,700 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Remediation Coordinator  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hlwd, Water Resources  
**Salary:** \$35,000 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Secretary  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hlwd, Communications  
**Salary:** \$18,700 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Secretary  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Housing  
**Salary:** \$25,500 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Teacher Aide (1yr. Class)/(3 yr. Class)  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Preschool Program  
**Salary:** \$19,000 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Transporter  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Health  
**Salary:** \$16,432 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Cashier (3)  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Brighton, Campground  
**Salary:** \$7.00 per/hour

**Job Title:** Counselor  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Brighton, Family Services  
**Salary:** \$37,000 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Licensed Practical Nurse  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001

**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Brighton, Health  
**Salary:** \$24,900 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Tribal Counselor  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Brtn, Family Services  
**Salary:** \$20,300 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Community Health/Representative  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Health  
**Salary:** \$18,700 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Custodian  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Ahfachkee  
**Salary:** \$15,600 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Maintenance Worker  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki  
**Salary:** \$16,640 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Permanent Sub. Teacher  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Ahfachkee  
**Salary:** \$12.50 per/hr w/benefits

## Anniversary



**Happy Anniversary** to the love of my life **Michael Sherman** on **Feb. 14**. We have been together now for 11 years, and I would not trade a day for anything.

Can you believe we are going to be parents in 20 more weeks? We are halfway there! Thank you for being so supportive and putting up with me through our pregnancy. You will make a wonderful dad. Soon, every time I look into our baby boy's eyes I will think of you and how much I love you and how much we have accomplished together through the years. May we have many more decades together.

Love always, your wife **Melissa!**

## Deadlines

**Seminole Tribune**  
February 9 Issue • Deadline January 26  
March 2 Issue • Deadline February 16  
March 23 Issue • Deadline March 9



## Kissimmee Slough Shootout: Reenactment Shows Living History

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon

**BIG CYPRESS** - "Suddenly there's a fire, there's a shot. Boom!" narrates Billy Cypress, Executive Director of the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. "The soldiers have surprised us. They are setting fire to the chickees. Quick! We must flee to the canoes. We must run now!"

So began the Third Annual Kissimmee Slough Shootout and Rendezvous, Feb. 3-4, on the Big Cypress Reservation.

"It is part of the museum's out growth to teach living history and get a taste of Seminole culture and history to the public through activities like this," said Cypress. "It's part of the museum's mission of teaching living history and like Brian Zepeda, our operations manager, said, 'It's one thing to read in books and then it's another thing to see people out here acting out what may have transpired in those days.'

"The shootout provides a little taste of what it may have looked like. It doesn't mean we are violent. We are just saying the warfare and fighting is part of our history."

The shootout that is portrayed is not a reenactment of a specific battle, but accurately portrays numerous skirmishes between Seminole Indians and soldiers, some of which actually occurred in the Big Cypress area.

In the past, the fighting might have involved Abiaka (Sam Jones) or Billy Bowlegs. Today it's Sawgrass, Larry Hooper, and Don Ekola - among others - taking part in the timeless struggle.

"I've been doing it since it started three years ago," says Sawgrass. "My family, my wife, son and I, we go to different reenactments all over the Southeast. We set up a camp. It's made of bark. I think it (the battle reenactment) has grown and it's a big thing now."

Other reenactors and vendors agree that the event has become one of the finest reenactments in South Florida.

"It's my first time at this event," says Larry Hooper, an Indian reenactor. "I'm from Avon Park, which is about two to three hours from here. I'm a native Floridian and am into living history. My family has been in Florida since before the Civil War."

"It's a fun thing to do and we enjoy the day and it's kind of nice doing it here (reservation) because this is a place where fighting actually occurred. I'm glad the Seminole Tribe is getting into this. It's the third year for this event but I've done Dade's Battle for five years and hope to do the Battle of Okeechobee. I've enjoyed the event. It's one of the best events I've been to in years."

"They treat us well and it's important to teach the public about our culture. I'm northern Creek. It reminds me of events we had 30 years ago. The same consideration for everybody, no politics, no favoritism, just everybody helps everybody. That's how we learn how to share what we know."

"I liked the event a lot I think it's very important that the old ways and the old things aren't forgotten and that's why I do it," says John Hall, an Indian reenactor and vendor for the Father, Son and Friends. He is a retired school-teacher who has been doing reenactments for 26 years.

"Once my father told me that before you know where you are going, you have to know where you've been. I'm real big on family history. You have to know where your people come from. And if you don't it's like you're just never whole."

"So I brought my Iroquois regalia down and fought with my Seminole brothers today. They treated us great. Most of the events we go to, it's like please just give us something, give us water, give us something. And here it's been, 'what can we do for you? What do you need?'"

"I thought it was great," says Vasco, an Indian reenactor. "It's my second time here. It portrays exactly how battles were fought. Down to the costumes and everything. How the Tribe would take the women into the swamp and everything. We try to keep traditions alive."

The two battle reenactments were the biggest and most impressive part of the event. But, there were other activities people could also enjoy.

The Seminole Tribe invited vendors who displayed all kinds of artifacts and arts and crafts to show people how it was to live during this time. They dressed in the regalia of the 1800s and told stories of how it was back then.

"We make Indian trade silver which was silver that was worn by the Native Americans," says Wayne Hookum, vendor for XX Trade Silver who came with his wife Marilyn and son.

The event also featured an archery contest and trips through the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and boardwalk. The Seminole traditional game of stickball was also played at the event.

"Stickball was the game you play after the corn dance is over," said William Osceola, a



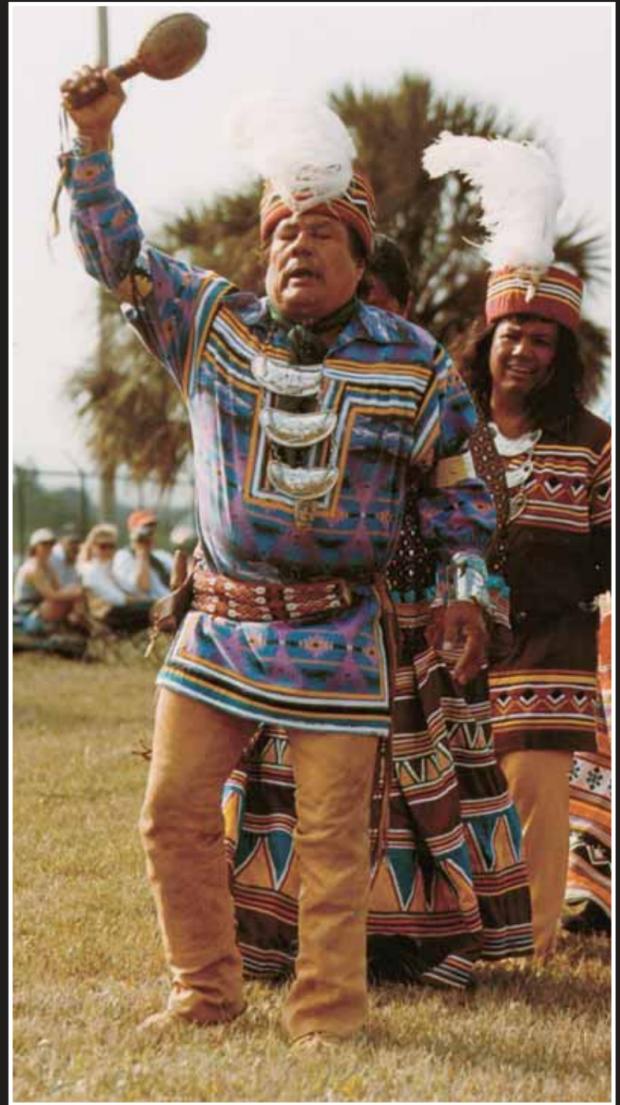
Council member (Trail) who participated in the stickball game. "The object of the game is to hit that mark on the top or above the tree pole and they paint marks on the tree and once you score it's erased. The ball is made of hide. The girls are on one team and the guys on the other."

"The girls can use their hands and everything, but they have to wear skirts. The men can only use the sticks. The game goes on, and on until all the marks are erased on either side. In the old days they use to put a flea in the ball and that supposedly makes the ball bounce. It's pretty rough, you can have a nosebleed, get your arm broke, your fingers, your nose."

"The scorekeeper is called the medicine man and he is the one that scratches off the charcoal markings from the tree. This game has been around forever. It's a game that takes away all your anxiety. Like some of the girls this is a chance where they can knock somebody down, you know, this guy that's done something to you, you can get him. Bam! And it's okay because it's all part of the game."

Victor Billie, also participated in the stickball game.

"We play this game once a year and it's usually a part of the green corn dance ceremony,"



says Billie. "We play this game four days. The corn dance lasts for only four days. We do everything in fours. We play the game to enjoy. This game is played every evening. Sometimes they put 20 markings or 30 markings. If you are a man and the ball is in motion you have to yell and scream. The women don't yell. The guys can still play if they don't have the sticks but they can only throw it to a guy with a stick."

"Back in the days, my elders told me this game is related to the war. A long time ago people could die in this game. They would just push them aside and still play. It was rough; it was just like war. That's why they call this game 'The little brother of the war.'"

Other activities at the event were stomp dancing, which is a traditional dance of the Green Corn Festival. Also, people could visit the museum where they have a film showing about Seminole history, storytelling and arts and crafts.

"This is our third annual," said Cypress. "Anything you start, you know, the first time very few people come and last year we had a good turnout. This year it has grown a lot, the little skit that we put on here as well as the people turnout. It looks to be an event that we can carry on which we want because of the Museum. Part of the Museum's

out growth is to teach living history and give a taste of Seminole culture and history to the public through activities like this.

"We do other things too. I personally narrate, am co-narrator with the Dade Battlefield Reenactment up in Bushnell which takes place around the New Year. There's a whole slough of reenactors, volunteers that that's what they live for. They love history. They love doing this."

"It (the event) all fits into what the Museum is about and teaching living history. We are trying to concentrate on one big battle a day. We are getting a good response. I'm glad people are coming back."

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is located on the Big Cypress Reservation, west of Fort Lauderdale. Take I-75 (Alligator Alley) to Exit 14, and then go north for 17 scenic miles. The hours of operation are Tues.-Sun., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call for holidays. Admission to the museum is \$6 for adults and \$4 for students and seniors.

For more information about the Museum, please call (863) 902-1113.

Photos by Robert Kippenberger