



Youth golfers win, page 9.



The Seminole Hard Rock Cafe Hotel and Casino will be a Broward County landmark when it opens in 2002, below.



Christmas around Seminole Country, page 7.



# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

\$1.00

www.seminoletribe.com

Volume XXII Number 1

January 19, 2001

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



TOMMY'S NAGOSHI: Artist Guy LaBree's work will be honored at St. Petersburg exhibit. See Special section.

## Appeals Court Grills Lawyers

\* Seminole Tribe Vs. St. Petersburg Times

By Charles Flowers

**WEST PALM BEACH** — It wasn't Watergate or the Pentagon Papers, but judges asked lawyers for the Seminole Tribe and the *St. Petersburg Times* to find a parallel in U.S. law.

Donald Orlovsky, representing the Tribe in its three-year old suit against the newspaper, wasn't sure if there is one.

"It's a classic case," Orlovsky said of the lawsuit which was dismissed by Broward Circuit Judge Leonard Fleet, and appealed by the Tribe. "Factually, it's a case of first impression."

Orlovsky and his counterpart for the *Times*, Alison Steele, were pressed by each of the three judges in the tribunal, but especially Judge Robert Gross, who repeatedly asked for a precedent to help the court decide when a news organization had gone too far in its pursuit of information.

"I have been unable to find any case anywhere in this country, Britain, France or Australia," said Judge Gross. "Tell me the facts of your best case that is remotely (relevant)."

Orlovsky replied: "My best case is this one."

However, other high news media cases were invoked, and some curious hypotheticals were posed by the judges.

What if, wondered Judge Mathew Stevenson, the defendants were not the *Times* but Donald Trump trying to get advantageous business information on Seminole casinos to help him make his Atlantic City operation more profitable?

Steele answered: "This case doesn't involve a competition . . . it simply involves the interest of reporting information to the public."

But it was not clear if Stevenson, or presiding Judge John Dell, were buying that argument. Answering Steele's statement that the Tribe's suit, if affirmed, would mean that "a journalist can never ask for backup information of what a source says," Stevenson noted a distinction, "The reporter here says even if it's confidential, get them for me anyway. It's asking the employee to do something not in the best interest of the employer."

The judge was referring to a now-notorious letter written on *Times* stationery by former *Times* reporter Brad Goldstein to Patricia Diamond, the assistant to Chairman James Billie. The letter, sent to

See **LAWYERS**, page 12

### Only Native Touchdown in Div. 1 This Season

## Seminole Ivan Billie Scores

By John Harjo and Brent Cahwee

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** — Seminole Indian Ivan Jared Billie had his "coming out party," a few months ago. It was in the fourth quarter against the University of Kentucky football team.

A red-shirt sophomore special teams player with the Mississippi State Bulldogs, Ivan unexpectedly took the field in the fourth quarter against Kentucky in a Southeastern Conference showdown. This was the moment Ivan had been waiting for his entire life. The Bulldogs' starting defensive end had gone down with an ankle injury and the coach had given the nod to Ivan.

The game was on the line. Kentucky coaches saw the new guy on the field. Figured he

might be a weak link. Pretty soon every play was directed his way. But Ivan (6-3, 240-pounds) stood up to the attack, responding with four tackles, one sack and numerous hurries during his one quarter of play.

With 13:21 left on the fourth quarter clock, Mississippi State safety Josh Morgan slammed into Kentucky quarterback Jared Lorenzen and the ball shook loose, bounding from the 38 to the Kentucky 25-yard line.

Alertly, Ivan Billie scooped up the fumble and ran for a touchdown — the only American Indian player to score a touchdown in Division 1 college ball the entire 2000 season. The Bulldogs won the game 35-17 and Ivan was named Defensive Player of the Game.

See **IVAN BILLIE**, page 10



Ivan (81) is TD bound.

## Murder Victim Found In Big Cypress Canal

By Janice Billie

**BIG CYPRESS** — The body of an unidentified female was discovered floating in a canal off Molly Pritchard Road on the Big Cypress Reservation by Water Resource Management employees on Jan. 10.

Seminole Police Chief Tom Hernan told to the *Tribune* the woman was the victim of "obvious foul play," and Florida Department of Law Enforcement crime scene experts were called onto the Reservation to conduct an investigation. Hernan said the body was that of an "unidentified white female."

At press time, no further information had been released. Police are still seeking to identify the victim, who Hernan estimated to be in her late 30s to early 40s.

See **BODY**, page 12



Janice Billie

**CRIME SCENE:** Blood found on shore near body.

## Tribe Breaks Ground On Hard Rock Casino

By Dan McDonald

**HOLLYWOOD** — "We're getting fancy and calling it a casino, but essentially it's just another bingo hall," Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie said with classical understatement before he and other officials turned a symbolic shovel of dirt on a \$300 million Hard Rock Café casino, hotel and entertainment complex Jan. 8.

The construction project, the most ambitious in the Tribe's 44-year history, will result in a 17-story, 750-room hotel, a health spa, lakeside beach club with a three-acre pool, shopping mall, water slides, poolside bar and a 1,000-seat Hard Rock Live entertainment venue which will feature national musical acts.

Completion date for the project, located on approximately 100 acres on the northern edge of the Hollywood Reservation, is expected within 20 months. But, Tribal and government officials are already beaming about the economic impact this project will have on the community.

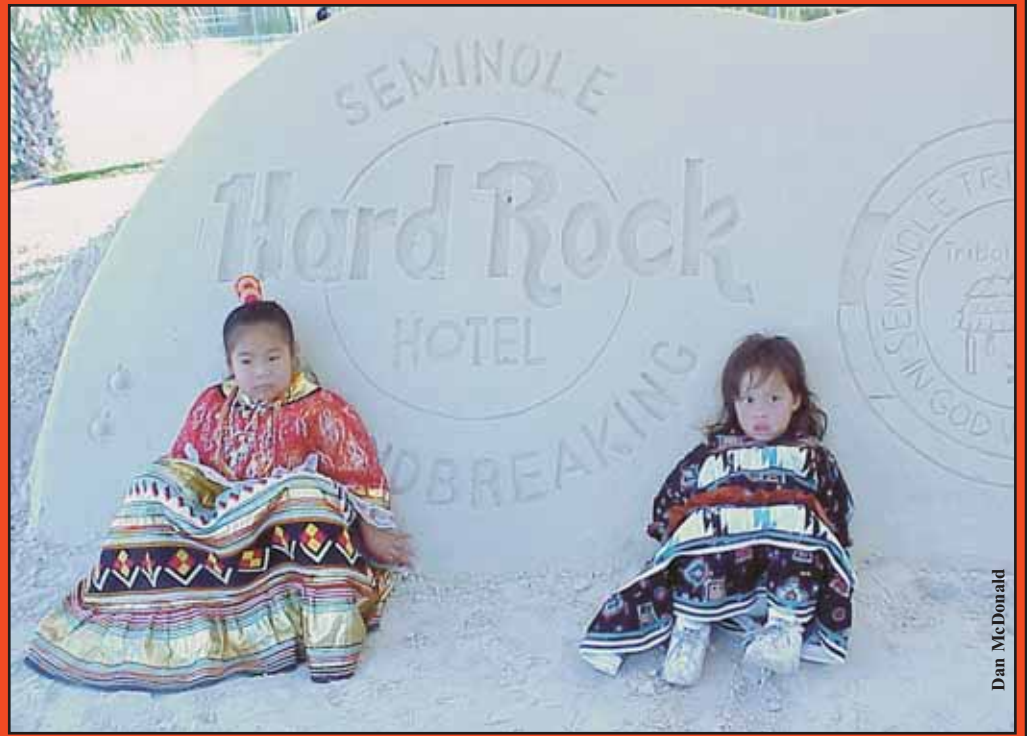
"This facility will offer gaming facilities, live music, shops, and restaurants," said Joe Weinberg, principal of the Cordish Company, the Baltimore, Md., based development firm contracted to bring the plans to fruition. "It will become a tremendous attraction for all of south Florida."

"This project will employ  
See **CASINO**, page 16



Dan McDonald

Tribal officials shovel first dirt on project.



Seminole Kaylin Osceola and Denise Emanuell Osceola rest on sand guitar sculpture.

Dan McDonald

## Seminole Festival Season Is Here

By Libby Blake

**SEMINOLE COUNTRY** — Seminole Country is gearing up for the start of its annual festival season.

The activities begin with the **3rd Annual Kissimmee Slough Shoot-Out and Rendezvous** Feb. 3 - 4 at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum complex on the Big Cypress Reservation. Living history camps, archery contests, arts and crafts, traditional dancing, and a live-action battle reenactment highlight the history of the Seminole Indians throughout the weekend event.

The following week brings events to the Hollywood Reservation for the **30th Annual Seminole Tribal Festival Pow-Wow and Rodeo**, which opens Feb. 8. Crowd favorites, Aztec Fire Dancers and the Blackhawk Blues Band, will grace the stage again this year with performances throughout the four-day festival.

Live alligator, snake, and panther shows will be presented daily along with genuine

Seminole arts and crafts. The Tribe's own native daughter and singing diva Paula Bowers will also perform during the event.

Professional rodeo, sanctioned by the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association (PRCA) and the Women's Professional Rodeo Association (WPRA), comes to the Bill Osceola Memorial Arena Feb. 9 - 10 with two performances on Friday and finals on Saturday night.

See **FESTIVAL**, page 12

## Chief Plays Tampa Theatre

**TAMPA** — Songwriter, storyteller and Seminole Indian Chief Jim Billie will team up with children's artist Shana Banana on Wednesday, January 24th for a free Super Bowl week "super" family concert at Tampa Theatre.

The concert will be videotaped live for Chief Billie's long-awaited DVD. It is also the kickoff event for the Tribe's Discover Native America (DNA) festival which ends with an American Indian powwow and music festival March 3 and 4 at the Eckerd College campus.

Chief Billie will present his unique musical tales of life in the Big Cypress swamp, backed up for two complete shows (8 and 10 p.m.) by his own five-piece band, led by guitarist Raiford Starke. His Sound of America Record (SOAR) release, "Alligator Tales," won three Native American Music Award Grammy's in 1999.

Shana Banana (Eckerd College graduate Shana Smith) will open the Tampa Theatre show at 6:30 p.m. on

See **TAMPA**, page 16







# Water A Never-Ending Problem

**By Tommy Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — Water is Mother Nature’s way of keeping ranchers and farmers in line. Either there’s too much or there’s not enough. Currently, we’re facing the latter.

Pastures are as dry as a tinder box, and with this type of dryness we could face the worst brush fires since 1996, when it seemed all of South and Central Florida were burning. In addition, Lake Okeechobee is at the lowest level it has been in over 20 years.

President Mitchell Cypress and the Board members have started taking measures to rectify the situation of dry water tanks and holding ponds for Seminole cattle owners. Workers are enlarging existing water tanks to increase capacity and digging a few more where deemed necessary to avert future problems.

Archie Johns at the Brighton Reservation is keeping his backhoe hopping and says he can walk his machine wherever he needs to dig.

“This is the driest I can ever remember,” Johns said, adding he is traveling with his machine in places he’s never been able to dig. “It’s just dry everywhere. But, it’s giving us an opportunity to get to some out of the places we couldn’t reach before.”

“We’ll take advantage of the dryness and we’ll dig ponds and water holding tanks while we can and where we can.”

Alex Johns, Brighton Board Representative, leased another machine to help make sure they get all the existing cattle water holes re-dug and cleaned out and new ones dug.

“You make the best of the hand you’re dealt,” Johns said. “Right now, we need water for our cattle, and we have the opportunity to enlarge and clean out old water holes and dig new ones to help rectify the problems we are facing now, and be in better shape to



Tribe using dry conditions to dig more water holes.

face them in the future in case they reappear.”

The Brighton Community hasn’t had any rainfall of any significance since September 3, 2000. And the chances of receiving any in the near future don’t look too bright.

# Whole Lotta Bull Heading Home

**By Tommy Benn**  
**SEMINOLE COUNTRY** — Don Robertson, Director of Natural Resources for the Tribe, recently went on a bull-buying spree. Robertson considered several factors when purchasing the herd bulls. In an effort to meet the standards the Board set to keep the Tribe’s calf crop at premium price value, Robertson purchased Black Brangus Bulls.

Robertson added a total of 167 bulls to the

Board’s Cattle Program. The black bulls came from the Steiner, Mound Creek, and Flying B ranches in Texas. He also added another 21 bulls purchased from Cow Creek ranch owner Willard Sharpe.

“The Cow Creek bulls have basically the same genetic breeding as the Newsman bloodline we have been breeding to for the last few years. The Cow Creek bulls will add a little twist into the blood of the Parker Island cattle. These bulls will improve marketability of the calf crop, getting them more in line with the other Tribal cattle programs,” said Robertson.

The bulls were put out to pasture the last week in December and first week in January. They will stay with the cows for 90 to 120 days, ensuring the covering of the cows.

The cattle market has been extremely favorable over the past year, and all indications show the market should stay in an upward trend with steadily higher prices on the better calves.



New batch of Black Brangus bulls from Texas head for greener pasture.

# Water Use Restrictions In Effect Throughout Seminole Country

**SEMINOLE COUNTRY** — At 12:01 a.m. Jan 17, Phase II water use restrictions went into effect, for residential use for the entire lower east coast. The rules apply regardless of water source (well, canal, pond, lake) but not to low-volume irrigation equipment where water is delivered to the root area of the plant.

Landscape irrigation is allowed two days

per week between 4 a.m. and 8 a.m. Odd number houses may water on Wednesdays and Saturdays only; even and unnumbered houses may water on Thursdays and Sundays only.

You may also water by hand between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. on your designated days if you use only one hose and an automatic shutoff nozzle. New plantings (less than 30 days old) may be watered Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 2 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Residential car, boat and equipment washing is allowed from 4 a.m. to 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on your landscape watering days. Wash water must soak into the ground, not run off the pavement, and be done with a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle. Rinsing and flushing of boats after saltwater use is allowed once per day for 15 minutes per boat.

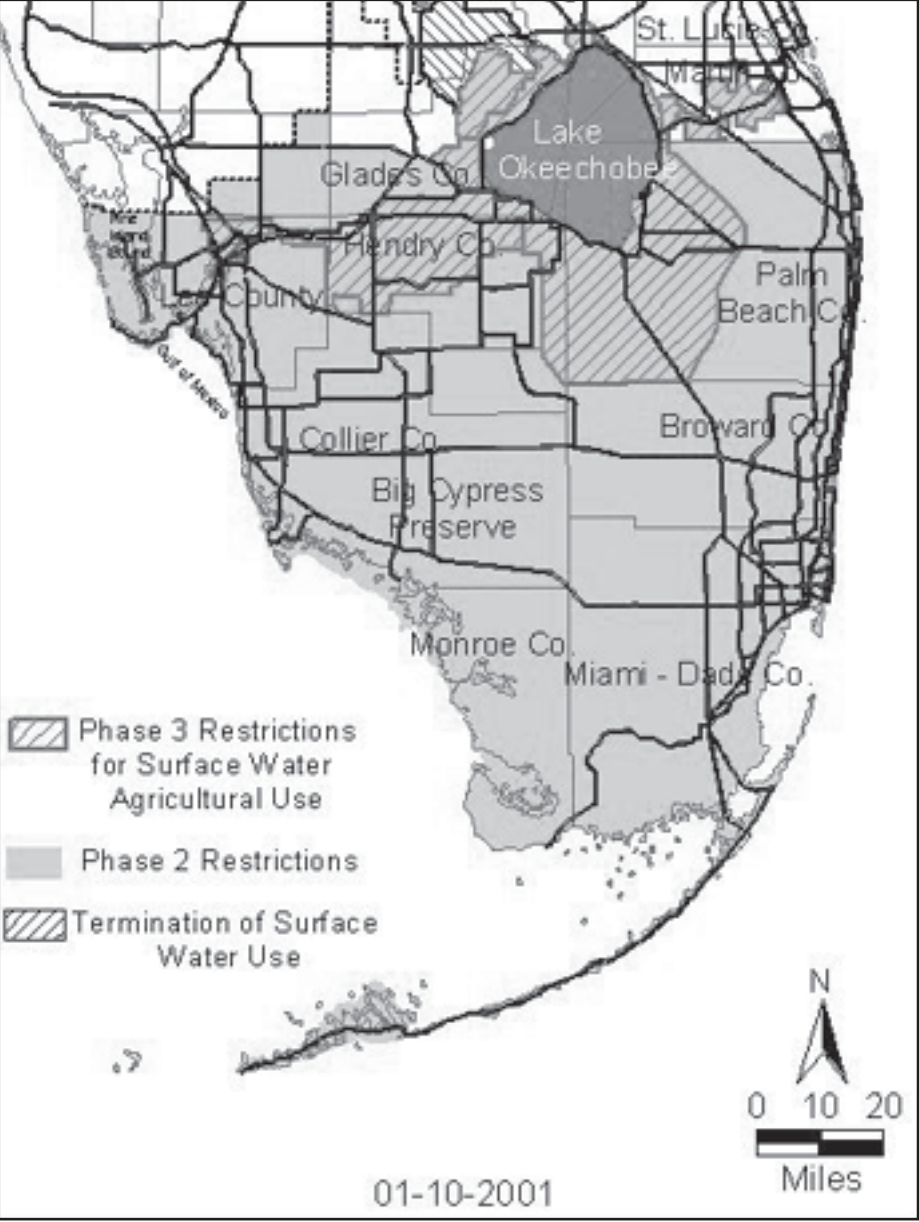
Low volume pressure cleaning equipment may be used to clean any surface or structure.

Live-aboard boats may be washed according to the landscape watering schedule. Swimming pools may be filled. They must be drained to an unpaved surface.

The same restrictions apply to residential users on the Big Cypress and Immokalee Reservations as they have since the end of November 2000.

Agricultural users are operating under special conditions that are a result of negotiations between the Water Resource Management Department and the South Florida Water Management District.

Please be aware that further restrictions may be issued if the drought continues, so it is in all of our interest to conserve water now.



Map shows water restrictions for South Florida.

If you have any questions, please to call the Water Resource Management Department: **Hollywood office:** (954) 967-3402, **Brighton Field office:** (863) 763-4128, **Big Cypress Field office:** (863) 983-2157.

## Visit South Florida's

# TRUCK SUPER CENTER

### State of the Art Facility Built With Your Needs In Mind.

### Large Selection of Show Trucks & Conversion Vans.

Explorer Sport Trac

F150 XLT SuperCrew

F350 Lariat CrewCab

- One Low Price!
- No Hassle!
- 7 Day Price Guarantee!
- Never Any Dealer Fees!

**WORLD**  
PEMBROKE  
PINES

For the friendly, courteous service you deserve.

8655 Pines Boulevard • (954) 443-7000  
www.worldfordpines.com



# Lawyers

Continued from page 1

Diamond's home, asked her to provide Goldstein with confidential information. The letter was quoted so often it may represent the core of the case. Orlovsky said in his brief that the letter showed "a course of conduct apparently designed to hound, harass, intimidate and frighten tribal officials . . ."

Steele said the Seminole Tribe's position that the newsgathering constituted "tortious interference with a business relationship" was groundless.

"The Tribe alleges that (the reporters solicited) confidential information. What information are they talking about. They're going to have to prove that the information is confidential. If it's not, how can it be stolen?"

Later, she added: "The Tribe either wants to find out who talked to the *Times*, or it knows and doesn't want to say."

The court asked Orlovsky to specify damage done to the Tribe by the *Times*' clandestine reporting methods. The lawyer replied that the reporters interfered with and adversely affected a Central Florida real estate deal.

Orlovsky said in his brief that, "Although the Seminole Tribe readily admits that there does not

appear to be any other case in the State of Florida in which these specific facts have formed the basis of a claim for tortious interference...the elements of the tort fit...so as to permit the Seminole Tribe to continue with discovery and go forward in attempting to prove up its claim at trial."

The closest lawsuit Orlovsky could find to this one was not cited in Orlovsky's brief. It is the recent *Food Lion v. Capital Cities Communication* in which television news reporters masqueraded as meat cutters to expose what they called improper food handling practices by the grocery chain. A \$500,000 verdict against the television network was reversed on appeal.

By the way, the difference between this case and Watergate, according to Orlovsky, was "Deep Throat (the anonymous informant in Watergate) was not asked, as far as we know, 'You're the chief's secretary. You can go in and steal documents for us.'"

And in the "Pentagon Papers" case, Daniel Ellsberg, a government employee with what Orlovsky called deep-seeded feelings against the Vietnam war took it upon himself to turn over to the press documents which...he voluntarily took without any solicitation on the part of the press forever."

After hearing 20-minute oral arguments from Orlovsky and Steele, and a brief rebuttal, the judges retired to deliberate a verdict.

# HAVE YOU BEEN INJURED?

- Automobile Accidents
- Medical Negligence
- Nursing Home Abuse/Neglect
- Slip & Falls
- Traffic Violations



Anthony "Tony" Scalese  
Tribal Member Pueblo of Isleta

As a Native American, I respect your special needs and concerns. If you or a family member have been injured, please call for a free, confidential consultation. No fee unless money recovered. We will work to protect your legal rights.

The Law Offices of  
Anthony V. Scalese  
(954) 436-6200

499 N.W. 70th Street, Plantation, Florida 33317

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

# Seminole Host GRAMMY Meeting

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Florida Chapter of the Recording Academy will host a reception and panel discussion entitled *The State of Native American Music* at the Seminole Okalee Village, Thursday Jan. 25, in recognition of the establishment of the new Native American Music GRAMMY category.

The event will feature Native American art, music and dance and a discussion exploring the current state of Native American music and future of this vibrant musical genre. Performances will include Native American flute player Carlos Nakai, Latin GRAMMY Nominee Nestor Torres, Sound Of America Records (SOAR) artists Tiger Tiger, Native American flute player Sonny Nevaquaya and Native American dancers.

Performances will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a Recording Academy information session and the panel presentation. Panelists will include Torres, Nakai, Tom Bee (President of SOAR), and Ellen Bello (President of the Native American Music Association). Neil Crilly, Executive Director of the Florida Chapter of the Recording Academy, will also make comments. The event is hosted by Chief Jim Billie and the Seminole Tribe of Florida and also supported by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation.

The National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, Inc. (the Recording Academy) is a non-profit organization of more than 17,000 musicians, producers, and other recording professionals. The Recording Academy is also responsible for numerous groundbreaking outreach programs involving education, human services and cultural enrichment.

# Body

Continued from page 1

The body was discovered at approximately 9:30 a.m., when the two Water Resource employees reported to work on Jan 10, for a regular work detail.

They were proceeding to an excavating machine parked further down the canal from where the body was found. One employee, who asked to remain anonymous, stated that as soon as they turned onto the small road that runs parallel to the E-2 Canal, they noticed a body lying face down in the small canal just off the bank. They also saw blood on the road.

They immediately backed up and left the scene to report it to the local Seminole Law Enforcement office. One of the employees reported that the body appeared to be a white male and was not there the day before when they drove by for the same work detail the previous morning.

The Seminole Department of Law Enforcement states that the matter is currently under investigation and no information is being made public at this time.

# Festival

Continued from page 1

The festivities continue on the Brighton Reservation Feb. 16 – 18 with the **63rd Annual Seminole Indian Arts and Crafts Festival**. Dancers, clothing contests, drummers, carnival rides, and traditional foods highlight the event also known locally as Brighton Field Days.

PRCA and WPRA will haul their stock to the Fred Smith Arena for two performances on Friday and Saturday night.

With Immokalee's annual rodeo and festival suspended this year, the Tribal festival season skips a week and moves to St. Petersburg for the **Discover Native America 2001 Powwow and Music Festival** at the Eckerd College campus, March 3-4. Singers Buffy Sainte-Marie and Ulali will headline the event, along with native dancers and drummers competing for \$15,000 in powwow prize money.

Complete schedules for all events will be in the next issue of the *Seminole Tribune*. For more information on the Slough Shoot-Out call (863) 902-1113 or (954) 792-0745; for the Hollywood Powwow call (954) 966-6300 ext. 1303; for the Brighton Arts and Crafts Festival call (863) 763-4128, for DNA, try (800) 535-2228..

# New Year Savings At Eddie Accardi

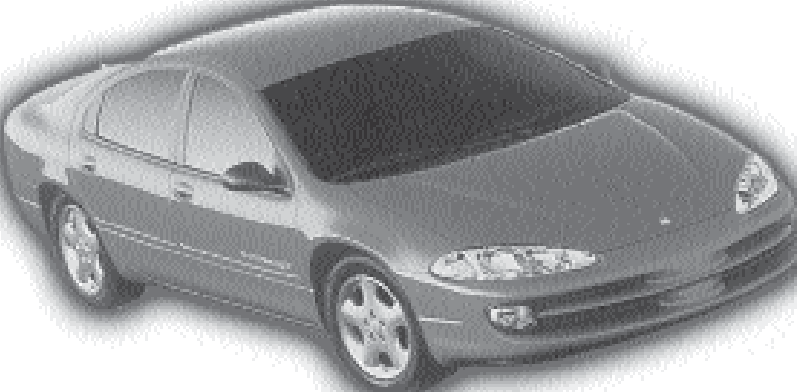


Valid with J.R. & Randy Only

\$500.00

\$500.00

Valid with J.R. & Randy Only



4224 Hwy. 441 South

357-0500

Mon - Fri 9am - 6:00pm

Saturday 9am - 4pm

Sunday - Closed

FIVE STARS

Certified Dealer

CADILLAC • PONTIAC • BUICK • JEEP • RAM

**BAD CREDIT, DIVORCE, ILLNESS, BANKRUPTCY**

**WE CAN HELP RE-ESTABLISH YOUR CREDIT!**



# Indian Country News



IAC's Ardell Ruiz, Ricahard Bowers and Russell Zephier (l-r) accept stock certificate from Tom Burch.

## Board Members Link IAC With Wet Blade

By Dan McDonald

**WILKESBORO, N.C.** — Cementing a tie between the Burch Wet Blade vegetation management system and Indian lands across the country, officials of the Intertribal Agricultural Council (IAC) visited Burch Company headquarters Dec. 27.

The IAC delegation included President and Seminole Tribal citizen Richard Bowers, Ardell Ruiz, a board member and President of the IAC's development corporation, and Russell Zephier, IAC secretary.

The mission of the IAC is to increase the stability and profitability of Indian agricultural land. Together, Indian lands account for 96 million acres. If these lands were contiguous, they would form the fourth largest state in the country. The 64 IAC tribal members control 80 percent of this total, and 48 million acres are dedicated for agricultural use — most in pasture land.

"The pasture land is where the Wet Blade will have the largest impact," Bowers, a Big Cypress cattleman, says. "The entire country is having trouble with weeds that just can't be controlled. The Wet Blade offers a method of control that didn't exist before.

"That's why we think it's important that the IAC and the Burch Company form a relationship. We're going to need the Wet Blade. We might as well own a part of the company and profit from the connection."

Bowers was able to see first hand how effective the Wet Blade is in dealing with weeds when Burch Company officials treated a test plot for smut grass, an invasive weed that is quickly taking over Florida pasture land.

"We have 8,000 acres of smut grass right now on our reservation," Bowers said. "The cattle won't eat it, and we couldn't control it. Now, with the Wet Blade, we're getting the control. I'm going to use the Wet Blade on my own pasture in the spring.

"That's what I wanted to let the IAC see.

This machine is effective and since everyone in the agricultural field will need to use it, we might as well profit from using it. I think this will be a good association for everyone."

The Wet Blade is a rotary mower blade designed to carry a bead of fluid on the cutting edge. As the blade cuts vegetation, a drop of herbicide is placed on the stem of the cut plant. The plant's natural reaction to being cut is to draw its fluids into the roots. As this is being done, the herbicide is also sucked into the roots, quickly destroying the plant. Using the Wet Blade, land managers have had great success in treating a host of invasive species that have defied conventional control.

The Seminole Tribe has become a major investor in the Burch Company. Bowers wants the IAC to form a similar alliance. At the group's next board meeting later this month, the IAC will decide to increase its connection to the Burch Company.

"We think this is a perfect partnership," Tom Burch, the inventor of the Wet Blade said. "The Indians were the original stewards of the land and the Wet Blade is the perfect device to help reclaim land in an ecologically sensitive way.

"It would be the perfect that the Indian tribes benefit from this system. It will help them improve their pasture and land and — as investors — they'll be reaping a financial reward as well."

To show his support of the IAC, Burch donated 2,000 shares of stock to the group. After presenting the gift, Burch gave the three men a tour of the Burch Company factory where they saw the equipment being tested and manufactured.

"It was very impressive," Bowers said. "It's one thing to hear a person talking about having a great machine, or a great invention. It's another to come and actually see the equipment being made. It makes it all real. I think everyone left with a much better impression about the Wet Blade. I think it's going to help the land, and we should be a part of it."

## Indian Casino For Oakland?

**OAKLAND, CA** — In a move that has machines whirling like cherry on a Vegas slot machine, Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and city staff met quietly with representatives of the once (supposedly) extinct Muwékma Ohlone Indians about the possibility of opening a casino at the foot of the Bay Bridge.

"The mayor indicated that a tribal gaming facility in Oakland would be a welcome addition to the city," confirmed Paul Filzer, general counsel for

North American Sports Management, the Florida outfit with the Muwékmas.

The tribe, based in San Jose, boasts about 397 members and used to be known as the Verona Band of Alameda County. It has been seeking federal recognition since 1989 and must achieve that by May 15 in order to qualify for casino ownership, according to Gov. Gray Davis' compact with the California tribes.

## Trump Apologizes To Mohawks

**MONTICELLO, NY** — Donald Trump publicly apologized recently for running ads which claimed drug addiction would follow if an Indian casino is built here.

The ad campaign targeted the St. Regis Mohawks, who have proposed opening a Catskills casino that could draw New York City-area gamblers away from the Trump resort and other casinos in Atlantic City, N.J.

State lobbying regulators ordered the apology and settled on a \$250,000 fine against Trump, his lobbyist and the Trump-backed Institute for Law and Society.

Mohawks say the apology sounded bland: "It doesn't take away the pain or money we spent countering the ads," Tribal Chief Alma Ransom said. "They still hurt."

## Looking For Teenage Writers

**PALO ALTO, CA** — Candlewick Press is collecting poems, true stories, and personal essays by American Indian teenagers and young adults, ages 12-22, to be published in an anthology edited by Annette Ochoa, a Program Specialist of Indian Education in western Sacramento, California. All writers whose work is included in the nationally

published anthology will be paid a fee for their work, receive a complimentary copy of the book, and will retain all rights to their work.

Deadline for submissions is April 30, 2001. For guidelines, write P.O. Box 60487, Palo Alto, CA 94306 or e-mail francobe@aol.com or ochoa1Annette@netscape.net.

## Peltier Irony: Bones Speak

On Dec. 6, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln ordered the first mass execution by hanging 39 Dakota men to be hanged at Mankato, Minn. The reason for the hanging was because the Dakotas rose up to defend their land from being illegally seized from them and to prevent their families from starving due to the Indian agent withholding annuities promised from the government. This resulted in a war with the white settlers who coveted Indian land and their means of supporting their families.

Of the Dakotas hanged on that day, one named White Dog had a cousin called Hunka Sivaka, also known as Anna Williams. Anna had to flee with her two small children to the northern Plains, now known as Devil's Lake, North Dakota, because the relatives of the 38 hanged were being hunted down and killed by General Sibley and his army.

Anna Williams is the great-great grandmother of Leonard Peltier.

Imprisoned Lakota, Leonard Peltier is a blood relative of White Dog of the 38 actually hanged at Mankato. The 38 bodies of those hanged were buried in a mass grave. Later that night, the

bodies were dug up and dissected. The flesh was removed from the bones by boiling the bodies in a huge cooking pot, as this was a common practice of prehistorians at that time and is still practiced by today's anthropologists. The boiled-cleaned bones were then used for so-called medical research for the benefit of the American people. Dr. William Mayo and his sons used these bones in anatomical studies. The Dakota bones were used to lay the foundation for what became known as the Rochester Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

Ironically, last March, 138 years later, Leonard Peltier was taken from Fort Leavenworth prison to Rochester Mayo Clinic for surgery on his jaw (the place that his ancestors bones founded).

It is interesting to note that several years ago, Cut Nose, another of the 38 hanged, had his skull removed from display at one of the doctor's office at Rochester Mayo Clinic and returned to the Dakota's of Mankato, Minn. for burial. Recently, his tattooed skin measuring about 4 by 5 inches was returned from the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, Mich. to be buried.

## Blood: Divisive Tribal Issue

By Hector Tobar

**PABLO, Mont.** — Janice McClure is the keeper of a crumbling ledger book, a census of the Confederated Tribes of the Flathead Reservation completed almost a century ago. It contains 2,000 names penned with meticulous handwriting by a federal "Indian agent," each person identified by a crude measurement of racial ancestry: "Frank Ashley, one-half blood . . . Agnes, five-eighths blood."

"I don't like seeing that pedigree," said McClure, 55. She has relatives in the book, and the fractions leave her with an ugly feeling. American slaves were classified like that — as "quadroons" and "octoroons," labels long since forgotten.

But the blood degrees assigned to the Flathead tribes don't disappear when McClure locks up the ledger inside a closet at the tribal headquarters here.

The 1904 census has morphed into a new list, this one on perforated computer paper. With each passing year, the numbers on that list grow more complex: 17/64, 111/128, 165/256.

A "blood quantum" still is assigned to each child born here and on most reservations across the United States. On the Flathead Reservation, those at a level of one-quarter or higher become members (citizens) of the tribe. Those with "thinner" Indian blood are, in the eyes of federal law, outsiders.

Blood has become an obsession among nearly all of the nation's 561 officially recognized tribes. Families have been divided over it. Some want the quantum fractions done away with. Last fall, 1,000 of the Confederated Flathead tribe's 6,000 citizens signed a petition to have the rules relaxed. They were bitterly opposed by Patrick Pierre, a 71-year-old tribal elder and one of the dwindling group of "full bloods" on the reservation.

"I was in my sweat lodge, praying, so that this would not pass," Pierre said. "There's no ifs, ands or buts when you're working with the spirit. If this passed, we'd be adopting everyone into the tribe."

Similar disputes are being fought on reservations across the nation. The Catawba Tribe of South Carolina, the Paiutes of Nevada and the Tigwa of Texas have all debated the rules of blood quantum and tribal membership (citizenship) in the last year.

Among a few tribes, casino money has fueled the controversy. But there are no gambling riches on the Flathead Reservation — home to three unified tribes: the Salish, Kootenai and Pend d'Oreille. Here, tribal membership entitles you to a monthly government stipend of less than \$100.

Instead, the battle over blood quantum is here,

## Five Tribes Regain Status

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs Kevin Gover has reaffirmed the federal trust relationship between the United States and the King Salmon Tribe and the Shoonag' Tribe in Alaska and the Lower Lake Rancheria in California after finding that their government-to-government relationship with the U.S. has never been severed.

Gover stated in his finding dated Dec. 29, 2000, "I am pleased to correct this egregious oversight." Gover resigned his post five days later.

Due to administrative error, the BIA had for several years failed to place the three tribes on the list of federally recognized tribes it is required to publish annually in the Federal Register under the Federally

as elsewhere, a disagreement about what makes an Indian an Indian. Are you Salish if the blood of a single Salish grandparent courses through your veins? Can you call yourself Kootenai if your mother whispered that tribe's folk tales into your ears — parables about coyotes and white-tailed deer — even if your eyes are green or blue?

The sides in the Flathead controversy are sharply drawn: Those who see American Indian traditions under assault from "wannabes" and those who believe the blood rules are genetic time bomb threatening to make many tribes extinct.

With sadness and anger, Pierre points out that his stand on blood quantum has caused "members of my own family to turn against me." His nephew wrote a letter to a local newspaper calling those who oppose the changes "hypocritical people . . . who go to bed with their white woman every night."

The Flathead Reservation isn't the only place where the debate has turned shrill. Blood quantum is an inescapable fact of life for most American Indians, perhaps the most regulated, counted and classified people in the United States.

One academic has identified 30 activities that require Indians to certify tribal membership (citizenship) — everything from health services to the possession of eagle feathers for ritual dances to the right to sell one's craft work as "native" art.

On the Flathead Reservation, people have been known to order up DNA tests to sort out their blood levels. This winter, one woman had a corpse exhumed: The resulting DNA test proved the dead man was her father, raising her blood quantum.

Darryl Dupuis, a leader in the movement to ease the blood rules on the Flathead Reservation, has an official blood quantum level of just 11/32. And his children are 11/64, which is 5/64 short of the degree required for membership (citizenship). "Even if you look like you're an Indian individual and you speak the language and practice the traditions, if you don't have the correct degree of Salish and Kootenai blood, then you can't be a tribal member (citizen)," Dupuis argued.

The current blood requirements were established in 1960, when the U.S. government pressed tribes to give up their old forms of government — based on tribal elders — and adopt U.S.-style constitutions.

Today, about 80 percent of U.S. tribes require a certain level of blood quantum, varying from 1/64 to one-half.

— *This story originally appeared in the Los Angeles Times.*

## Native Grammy Nominations

**SANTA MONICA, CA** — Seven native artists or groups made the final cut for the 2000 GRAMMY Awards, the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences announced. The 43rd Annual GRAMMY Awards will be telecast February 21, 2001 on CBS-TV.

Nominees for the brand new Native American category were The Black Lodge Singers "Tribute To The Elders" (Canyon Records Productions); Joseph Fire Crow "Cheyenne Nation" (Makoche Recording Co.); Lakota Thunder "Veterans Songs" (Makoche Recording Co.); Joanne Shenandoah "Peacemaker's Journey" (Silver Wave Records); and Various Artists "Gathering of Nations Pow Wow" (Soar).

R. Carlos Nakai received a nomination for

Best New Age album for "In a Distant Place" (Canyon Records) and Paul Winter & The Earth Band made the final cut in Best World Music Album with "Journey With The Sun" (Living Musuc).

Seminole Chief Jim Billie, whose "Seminole Fire" made the original list for "Best Spoken Word Album For Children," was beat out for the final five by some notable names: James Earl Jones ("The Christmas Miracle Of Jonathan Toomey"); Susan Sarandon ("Dinosongs: Poems To Celebrate A.T. Rex Named Sue"); Jim Dale ("Harry Potter And The Goblet Of Fire"); Paul Newman ("The Adventures Of Tom Sawyer") and Liam Neeson ("The Polar Express").

## New Political Era Begins For Indians

From Legislative Impact

With a new administration now in place in Washington D.C., a new political era begins for American Indians. But when the Indians step up to bat, they may want to take a few pitches before swinging for the fence, political analysts advise:

"We must remain calm, stay focused, and be politically savvy in our approach in dealing with the new administration and the next Congress," said Susan Masten, president of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and chairwoman of the Yurok Tribe in California.

"With all the recent divisiveness that has been created in Washington, D.C., it is essential that we develop a united, coordinated strategy in dealing with both the administration and Congress."

After important victories at the polls for Indian country in November elections, including the defeat of Republican Sen. Slade Gorton in Washington state and election of Democrat Brad Carson, a Cherokee ation tribal citizen, to a U.S. Congressional seat in Oklahoma, a new political playing field has emerged. The Senate is split 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans and Republican control of the House has been weakened, giving the long-outnumbered Democrats a foothold for pushing their agenda in the upcoming session.

Important assignments in committee and subcommittee seats and leadership positions are expected to change what many tribes have come to know as the norm since the Republican takeover of Congress following the 1994 elections. With some prominent Republicans leaving after defeat or retirement, key committee seats dealing with Indian affairs and tribal issues will be occupied by new policy makers, some familiar and some not so familiar to Indian country.

In the House of Representatives, Don Young, R-Alaska, will be replaced as chairman of the all important Committee on Resources by Rep. James Hanson, R-Utah. Elected in 1980, Hanson was former chairman of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Lands. His record on Indian issues is mixed, being an outspoken advocate for public access to federal lands and opposed to tribal efforts to restrict

that use for cultural or religious reasons.

Rep. Joe Skeen, R-N.M., will succeed Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Pa., as chairman of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Elected in 1974, Skeen's congressional district includes both Laguna Pueblo and the Mescalero Apache. He was a soil and water engineer for Zuni Pueblo and the Ramah Navajo in the 1950s. Skeen is said to also be close to Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., considered by some a friend to Indian country.

Congressman-elect Carson has yet to be assigned to any committee. However, as a newly elected member of the House and a freshman he will unlikely hold any leadership position.

In the Senate, Sen. Benighthorse Campbell, R-Colo., is expected to retain his seat as chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

With the defeat of Gorton, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., is expected to take over as chairman of the Subcommittee on Interior Appropriations. Elected in 1988, Burns has been a longtime friend to many in Indian country and especially close to tribes in Montana. Many see the departure of Gorton from this important subcommittee as a major step forward for tribes in receiving appropriations free of riders long perceived as anti-Indian.

"Tribal governments have found themselves in a defensive posture in past Congresses with Sen. Gorton leading the charge on many anti-Indian initiatives," Masten said. "The defeat of Sen. Gorton is a victory for Indian Country. Politicians will engage in greater deliberations before advancing any anti-Indian legislation which singles us out for vicious attacks on our tribal sovereign rights to govern ourselves and our affairs."

Although much has changed in Congress following the elections, tribal leaders like Masten say many of the core issues and players remain the same. They say tribes need to continue to work with both parties to facilitate development of a pro-active legislative agenda that will improve federal policies for Indian nations.

— compiled by Peter B. Gallagher



# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday



Happy Birthday to Miss Allison Marie Osceola on Jan 29th. Wishing you all the best love you form Jackie, Michael and Nicholas.



We want to wish our only daughter **Clarissa Randolph** a **Happy 15th Birthday** on Jan. 24th. We love you very much. Love always, **Mom, Dad, Dionne, Sammy and Smedley.**



Happy Birthday to my little angel **Tatiana Callie Herrera**. I love you baby girl! Your **Mommy Jolene Cypress.**



Happy Birthday to Nena **Raquel Waggeber!** We love you! **Aunt Jolene, Colby, Callie and Martina.**



To a great **Daddy** we want to wish **Fernando Herrera** a **Happy Birthday** on Jan. 17. You are loved very much! Hope you have fun on your day. Love you always, **Daddy! Colby, Callie, Martina Herrera.**

Happy Birthday on Jan. 15, **Marcella Billie**, from **Doris and the Otter Gang.**

Happy 3rd Birthday **Denise Emanuelle Osceola** on Jan. 12. We love you lots! From the rest of the **Otter Gang, Mom and Egoosh.**



Happy Birthday to our Sister we love very much! Love you sissy, **Colby and Martina Herrera.**



Happy 5th Birthday **Leah Cox**, from **Mom, Dad, and the whole gang, Tim, Amy, Brittney, Alissa, Cameron, Timmy.**

Happy Birthday on Jan. 15! I love you **Grandma**. Have a great day! Love, **Cheyanna.**

Happy Birthday "Melogues," on Jan. 12. One love, **Mama Doris.**

Happy Birthday on Jan. 15 to my **Mom**. You're the greatest! Lots of love, **Doris.**

Happy Birthday on Jan. 15, **Mom, Grandma, Greatgrandma Peggy Jim Osceola**. We love you very much! From the Otter Gang – **Dominique, Marlon, Letetia, Denise, John John and Willie.**

**David Eagle**, I wish you a **Happy Birthday** on Jan. 28. Hoping that your next ones will be with me. Your friend, **Rosetta Jumper.**

We want to wish our **big sissy** and only **sissy** a **Happy 15th Birthday**. We love you. **Justin, J-Bird, Ray-Ray, K-K, YLees, and C.J.**

Happy New Year and Get Well Soon, **Ernie Bert**. Miss ya! Your Daughter, **Oppy.**

Happy Birthday **Stephen Bowers**. Always, **Annie Jimmie, Sindy and Mailani.**

Happy Birthday to **Sindy** on Jan. 24. Love **Grandma Annie Jimmie, Mailani** and the **Communications Department.**

## Poems

### Dad To Son(s)

Please, don't let me be sorry  
And, please, don't let me wish this and that  
Please, my son, don't let me worry  
Your old dog looks sad and so does the cat.

Times, when woes of life can be cruel  
But I know you good and well, so  
Be at your best and accomplish your goal  
But you know son, it's hard to see you go.

You must do what you need to do  
Your mind is made up to stand tall  
Take life, one day at a time and just be you  
If you stumble, retrieve yourself from the fall.

Don't think you can't  
Deep in your soul, you know you can  
Be a simple man like Johnny Van Zant  
You will succeed and be a simple man.

Woes of Life, since the beginning of time  
Don't let disappointments stand in your way  
Put your heart a-right and the sun will shine  
And don't forget my son, take time to pray.

Success of today and tomorrow Lies wait, at the tips of your fingers  
So does failures of life, waits for your sorrow  
Armor of God protects you from devil's stingers.

Someone said, "I'm never alone."  
That saying is very true, my son  
Loneliness can at times, go deep, to the bone  
But like Elijah, you run the best run.

Philosophical sayings of the times  
May be appropriate for today  
Mechanics of the writings, form rhymes  
But one thing is sure, take time to pray.

Love you always  
Dad  
— Cowbone

### Song of Deceit

I am here, come and grab me  
I am here, come, you cannot go wrong  
Your tongue is dry like a bone  
And your throat feels like a desert stone

Come on, you are getting closer  
Keep on comin', you are almost here  
My voice is so sweet, it kills you  
You cannot resist my cunning disaster, dear

Your voice is so unbearable  
But I heard your cries  
So now it's your turn to listen to me  
So listen to me you fool, listen to my lies

That's right it's me I'm here  
Pick me up and put me to your lips  
I'll go down your throat with burning hell

### Night Sky

I don't have what it takes  
To hang around  
But I'm good at wasting time  
There's nothin' no way, when I'm down

I used to try and be on time  
For reasons I just don't understand  
I'd go for miles and miles of jungle in Vietnam  
And I only asked to be my own man

"Nevertheless I still got my freedom  
So I'll make the best of it  
Before I go down  
Death is imminent at anytime  
When the night sky is illuminated  
I pulled my trigger only to hear an awful sound"

Some nights I wished for the worst  
But then that's not what I am about  
I am who I am that's how I've been taught  
I'll get as many as I can 'fore I go out

I huddle close to my weapon  
And try to keep it from this cold, slow drizzlin' rain  
I closed my eyes and go back in time  
And for a little while it eases my pain

I'm thinkin' 'bout my mom and dad  
And wonder if they're thinkin' 'bout me  
For now I'll pray to God my soul to keep  
And thank Him for America land of the free

Tomorrow will be forever since I've been here  
At first I was cold and hungry but no more  
I've learned to be a machine on a mission  
Eradicating my enemy is my duty and chore

The color of my skin and my so-called enemy are the same  
Sometimes I wonder whose side I'm suppose to stand  
I pray to God for mercy as the night sky is lit  
And to let me see tomorrow and let me be my own man

"Nevertheless I've still got my freedom  
So I'll make the best of it  
Before I go down  
Death is imminent at anytime  
When the night sky is illuminated  
I pulled my trigger only to hear an awful sound"

— Paul "Cowbone" Buster (I wrote this for all Native American Veterans, but I especially wrote it in memory of Charlie Gopher and all Seminole Veterans.)

Because you are mine to kick your hips  
Close your eyes and satisfy your thirst  
You seemed to feel so good and well  
But you don't know your own destiny  
'Cause tomorrow you will feel the burning hell

I am not singing sweet again  
Because I fool you with my lying tongue  
I am not singing at all  
What you thought you heard was only a song of deceit

— Paul "Cowbone" Buster

## Notices

**2nd Annual Florida Flute Retreat** — Feb. 22-25, the 2nd 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 wood-carving 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 Abisiod 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. Contact Sonny Nevaquaya at (954) 665-3255 for more information or Christine Nevaquaya at (954) 966-6300 ext. 1462.

**Central Florida District Club** **Directors** — Your first visit to our arena for a one-day show will be free of charge! If you are interested in learning more about availability, please contact at Barbara Scott, President of Desert Star Arena, Inc. at the ranch. 508 W. Keene Road, Apopka, FL 32703. For information call: (407) 884-0232 or fax: 884-5852; email: BScott@desertstararena.com; visit our website at: www.desertstararena.com.

**Community members** — Be advised that an animal control ordinance has been enacted for the Hollywood Reservation. The new ordinance went into effect on January 1, 1999. To be in compliance, you must first

obtain a Broward County License, a Broward County rabies vaccination certificate, and a Broward County license tag for each cat or dog's collar. You can obtain these at any Broward County veterinarian's office. Then, you must show proof of the Broward County license to the Seminole Health Department and obtain a Seminole Tribe of Florida license. You can do this at the Hollywood Medical Center. If you have any questions about the new Animal Control Ordinance, please call Environmental Health Services at (954) 962-2009.

**Casino To Host Events** — The Coconut Creek Casino will put on the following two events: Motown Days — Come move and groove to the rockin' sounds of James Brown. Singer Toni Morrison will do a tribute to the legend and perform other Motown hits on Jan. 30, from 1 – 5 p.m. Every hour names will be drawn to win electronics prizes including a large screen television. 50's Revival — Put on your blue suede shoes and come rock 'n roll with us at our 1950s revival on Feb. 25. We'll have a huge classic car show in our parking lot and a hip 50s band will play all of your favorites from 1 – 5 p.m. Names will be drawn every hour for the chance to win great prizes. For more information call (954) 977-6700.

## Deadlines

### Seminole Tribune

February 9 Issue • Deadline January 26  
March 2 Issue • Deadline February 16  
March 23 Issue • Deadline March 9

### Chickee Baptist Church

64th Ave. and Josie Billie  
Hollywood Seminole Reservation

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

Rev Arlen Payne: Pastor  
(954) 894-5651

### I sell Ford cars and trucks

If you are in the market for a new or used car or truck, call or visit C.T. Smith at World Ford - your friendly no hassle auto dealer.



Call or visit C.T. Smith at World Ford  
8655 Pines Blvd. • Pembroke Pines  
(954) 443-7034 • pager (305) 732-5992



### FULL SERVICES CAR WASH

Open Business  
All Staff Seminole.

TOMMIE DANIELS  
Bp: (954) 766-9115





CHRISTMAS FEAST: Ahfachkee parents, children, and staff enjoy dinner at the school.

# Ahfachkee School Christmas Program

**By Janice Billie**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Ahfachkee School presented its annual Christmas Program to the Big Cypress Community and visitors the evening of Dec. 21. It was a truly delightful and joyous evening of Christmas cheer.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m. a cafeteria style dinner was served and everyone was well fed before the show. Proud parents, visitors and staff were all on hand to support the school and students and enjoy the evening.

Chairman James Billie with his wife Leslie, Seminole Board of Directors President Mitchell Cypress, and Board Representative Mondo Tiger were among the attendees.

The room was also bubbling over with excited children of all ages eager to see the show and to meet Santa Claus. A giggly wave of anticipation had rippled through the group of children when it was announced that Santa had sent word that he would be arriving some time towards the end of the presentation

Dr. Patrick Gaffney, the principal of Ahfachkee, addressed the audience after dinner. "Taking the time and effort to put together this program is a way to give something back for all the support given to the school by the community and Tribal officials."

Dr. Gaffney then introduced Leroy King, who served as the emcee for the evening. Leroy asked Joe Osceola Sr. to say the invocation and officially open the program.

Beginning with Pre-K students singing a Christmas carol, each grade from 1st through 6th per-

formed songs and skits. Teacher Jessica Cohen's 5th grade class gave one memorable performance by donning reindeer attire and repeatedly running over "Grandma" (Kayla Bowers).

Another delight was the well-behaved real baby (Abiaka Bowers) for a manger scene performed



JOY TO THE WORLD: Second grade students singing.

by Teacher Melissa Weinberg's 4th grade class. The 7th and 8th grade classes screened their video version of "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Produced and performed by the students with technical provided by Brian Zepeda, the short film was an excellent exhibit of the students' knowledge of media.

Though sometimes appearing a little shy the students obviously enjoyed putting on the show, and the joyful energy was contagious. The charmed audience applauded, laughed and smiled generously throughout the program.

Finally, it was announced that Santa Claus was in the building, and the children went wild. The show was fantastic, but for some of these kids it was all about Santa.

Touching down at Ahfachkee School by way of Fort Myers, the jolly fellow arrived not a minute too soon. He sat down on his prepared settee and received the lined-up children just like he was at the mall. With that age-old scene the program came to a close.

Congratulations to all the teachers and students of Ahfachkee School for doing such a wonderful job.



Third grade students sing "Child Go Where I Send Thee."

# Wind Clan's 5th Annual Community Christmas

**By B. Secody**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — During the year following the 4th Annual Wind Clan Community Christmas party, Nancy J. Billie has been preparing for this year's celebration. Only a few days after last year's party, she again started buying toys, clothing, cookware, tools, and anything else any person could possibly use. By summer, she had already filled up one spare bedroom in her home, which had to be cordoned off to prevent curious little folks from exploring new toys and other cool stuff. By the end of the year, it was nearly impossible to get through that particular end of the house, where there were pots and pans, clothing, material, toys, games, bikes, tools, household items — and just about anything you could conjure up in your mind's eye. It was there — guaranteed!

It was not like Nancy had nothing else to do all year long: between doing her part in bringing up her grandchildren, teaching them the traditional ways of the Seminole people, maintaining her own household, and co-managing a chickee building/repair business that employs 14 workers, she accomplishes more in a day than most people do in a week.

This year, Nancy and her family outdid themselves: the community Christmas turned out to be one of the best ever. There were literally thousands of gifts to wrap, a menu to plan, cooks and other helpers to recruit, chickees to repair, rejuvenation of the Wind Clan campsite, and additions of several new chickees. These challenges were all taken in stride. As Christmas drew near everyone knew what was expected of them and went about doing their part to help.

Nancy credited Tribal leaders for their part in the success of the event through donations of food and funds to help put on the event, which has nearly doubled in participants since its inception five years ago.

The Christmas Party was held on Dec. 16 at Henry John Billie's residence. Hundreds of community members and tribal employees came out to join in the fun and enjoy the company of friends and fam-



Hundreds line up for holiday feast.

ily at this special time of year. The children were treated to a visit from a real Seminole (or was that Miccosukee's own "Joe Cool?") — who arrived in one of the Tribe's helicopters. He was then shuttled to the party in the Seminole stretch limo, to the delight of the waiting kids. They were given a souvenir of their visit with Santa in the form of a Polaroid picture. Kids were everywhere, and they all

had more gifts than they could carry. Jennifer Billie-Chadwick, Michaelene Cypress and many of the other young people served as Santa's elves, passing gifts and toys out to community members and guests.

Most of the non-Indian guests and Tribal employees were amazed at the amount of food which was provided — literally enough to feed a small army — but by this was considered normal community members, who are accustomed to such a production for special events. Big Cypress folks have always enjoyed celebrating with lots of good food and good company.

The day was truly a huge success. Thanks and congratulations go out to Nancy J. Billie and her family, who originally started hosting the Wind Clan Christmas celebration five years ago. It just keeps getting better. Now, with the spare rooms temporarily accessible again, needless to say, Nancy is already discussing her plans for next year's celebration and has started buying next year's gifts.



Richard Bowers gives two young hitchhikers a ride.

# Big Cypress Community Christmas Luncheon

**By Janice Billie**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Great food, door prizes, and community fellowship were the big draws at the Big Cypress Community Christmas Luncheon Dec. 21 held at the Big Cypress Gymnasium. For those of us that are blessed to see another Christmas the event was an occasion of holiday cheer and enjoyment.

The gym was well packed with Tribal citizens, Tribal employees and visitors. Councilman David Cypress and Board Representative Mondo Tiger contributed numerous gifts as door prizes. Both men, along with Mitchell Cypress, Seminole Board of Directors President, gave welcoming remarks and expressed their wishes for all to have the happiest of holidays this season and to be safe.

The gym was open at 10 a.m. for a continental breakfast and the luncheon was served close to noon. The Swamp Water Café catered the event.

The menu featured savory baked chicken, beef, fish, and ground beef gravy with rice and vegetables. There was fry bread and sofkee to go along with all the rest. An assortment of pies was offered for dessert.

The senior citizens, by tradition, were served first by the Hot Meals staff, and then everyone else lined up to fill their plates. The tables were beautiful-



Juanita Billie won skillet in door prize drawing.

ly decorated and added to the mood of the holiday. Paul "Cowbone" and his band provided musical entertainment.

It was another Christmas tradition celebrated by the community, and our hope is that we will see and celebrate many more.

# Seniors Celebrate Together

**By Libby Blake**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal seniors, from all reservations, celebrated Christmas this year at the new Senior Center on the Hollywood Reservation Wednesday Dec. 20. Several seniors from the Miccosukee Tribe who made the trip up from Trail to visit with their Seminole brethren joined them.

Festivities got underway just after 10 a.m. with Council Representatives David Cypress and Max Osceola welcoming the attendees. Mitchell Cypress, Tribal President, and Carl Baxley, Board Representative, also addressed the seniors with words of holiday cheer and well wishes.

"When the Tribe started getting organized under the old oak tree you [seniors] were there. You have seen the Tribe grow and become what we are today. You made it all possible and it's because of you that we are here today," said Osceola.

The Cypress brothers addressed the group in Miccosukee sending a message of good will for the holiday season to all. Baxley also wished everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Accompanied by Paul Buster on guitar, the Seminole "Choir" sang three songs both in English and Miccosukee. Choir members included Jo Motlow

North, Cornelia Osceola, Erika Deitz, Maydell Osceola, Mabel Osceola, Ronnie Doctor, Louise Jumper, Juanita Osceola, Herbie Billie, and Dan Osceola.

Deloris "Sweet Pea" Crumpler, bus driver for the Pre-school, gave a stirring rendition of "Silent Night." Betty Osceola then led a group sing of "Jesus Loves Me," in the Creek language.

Bingo was up next with Robin Osceola calling out the numbers. Five games were played. Winners were Nellie Bain, Leoda Osceola, Dorothy Tommie, Henry Gopher, Ginnie Bowers, and Joe Henry Tiger. Irene Jimmie, while not yet a senior, got bingo on the same game as Leoda and received a gift bag of items.

After all the winners received their prizes, Dan Osceola led the group in prayer and the food was served. The menu included typical holiday fare of turkey and ham, prepared by Hot Meals head cook Linda Ormond and assistant cook Heather Covey. Jimmie O'Toole Osceola provided sofkee.

Others involved in the preparation of the food and decorations were Colleen Osceola, Frank and Mary Moore, Robin Osceola, and Vivian Osceola Delgado.

# 'It's Because Of You' — Seniors Honored

**By Janice Billie**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Big Cypress Seniors gathered mid morning on Dec. 13 at the Henry Osceola Senior Center to celebrate Christmas with food, song, and gifts. The day was bright and beautiful and so were the seniors who attended. No sign of winter but all the signs of the Christmas season were present in the décor, the message and the mood.

Joe Osceola Sr. started the festivities with welcoming remarks and the story of Christmas. He sang gospel songs, accompanying himself on the guitar. In between songs, Joe spoke of his salvation through his Christian beliefs and encouraged others to accept Christ into their lives. His music and message were uplifting and revealed him to be a man with peace in his heart.

Also providing music for the attendees throughout the morning was Jonnah Cypress with his band members Tony Osceola and Noah Jim. They sang and played gospel and Christmas songs.

Another feature of the event was the music and message given by Hurley and Dena Gumbai of Carnegie, Okla. Gumbai is a Kiowa Indian who has been preaching for 27 years and was preaching at the concurrent revival at Big Cypress Baptist Church. Dena Gumbai is a Cherokee and Chickasaw woman who possesses a beautiful voice.

"This is our second time in Seminole Country and we very impressed with the gains the Seminole Tribe has made," said Hurley.

The couple entertained the seniors with hymns sung in Kiowa and in English. They concluded

their set with a Christmas message and prayer. As always, Councilman David Cypress and Seminole Board of Directors President Mitchell Cypress were on hand to give remarks and pay respect to the Big Cypress community and their senior citizens.

David took the time to remind everyone of the upcoming community Christmas gathering at the Herman Osceola Gym and wished Mary Robbins and Louise Motlow happy birthday.

Mitchell encouraged everyone to be grateful for having concluded another year on earth and to stay positive and hopeful for the beginning of a new one. He told everyone to sincerely count their blessings and remember the reason for Christmas.

Names had been drawn for gifts earlier in the week, and these were passed out during the luncheon. Jonah and his band continued to play music while the senior citizens of the Big Cypress community enjoyed the occasion.



Dena and Harley Gumbai sang for seniors.

# Fort Pierce Rejoices, Looks To Future

**By Tommy Benn**  
**FORT PIERCE** — Family and friends from the Fort Pierce Reservation gathered to celebrate Christmas at the Marriott's Spring Hill Suites in Port St. Lucie Dec. 20. Guests started to arrive around 7 p.m. in the festively decorated banquet hall for a night of dining, old time conversation of Christmas Seasons past, and hopes of what the future may hold in store.

Mitchell Cypress, President of the Seminole Tribe, and his brother David Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative, wished everyone a safe and prosperous holiday in their opening remarks.

Sally Tommie, Fort Pierce Council Liaison, presented the residents with updates on the progress of construction on the Reservation land. Several residents voiced their feelings and wishes for 2001.

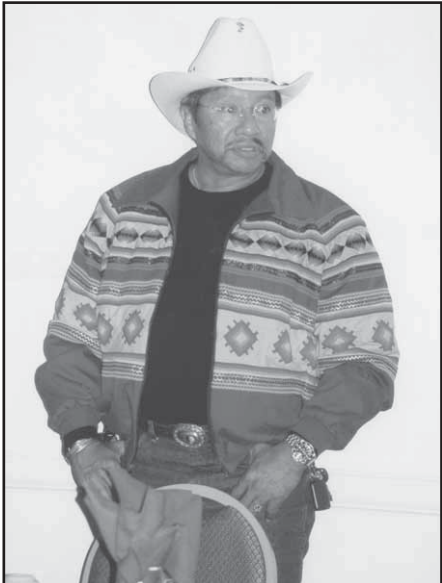
The Fort Pierce

Reservation land was put into federal trust on Aug. 13, 1995. Sixty acres were in the original trust agreement, but due to wetland disclosures the developable land is now only approximately 35 acres.

Once the infrastructure is finalized, the Fort Pierce Community is ready to start construction on Tribal offices and 20 home sites. Tim Cox, Tribal Operations Officer, reported to the *Seminole Tribune* that construction of the Fort Pierce infrastructure is set to begin early this year.

"It would be a great Christmas present if some of our Tribal members (citizens) could be in their new homes by Christmas of 2001," said Tommie.

The community residents are all descendants of Jack and Sally Tommie of the Bird Clan. They number nearly 70 at present time, with all enrolled as citizens of the Tribe.



Mitchell Cypress gave holiday greeting.



## Casino

**Continued from page 1**

approximately 2,500 construction workers and 6,000 permanent jobs and have a projected \$2 billion impact annually on the state's economy. We're proud to be a part of this development.

"This is going to be one of the largest buildings in this area," Weinberg added. "Taken together, the hotel and casino will be over one million square feet."

Nearly 400 guests were on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony

for the building which is set to become a landmark along S.R. 7. Under a bright blue sky, Billie took a moment to introduce Tribal officials including Tribal President Mitchell Cypress, Council members Max Osceola, David Cypress, Jack Smith Jr., Board members Carl Baxley, Mondo Tiger, Alex Johns, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Executive Director Billy Cypress and Billy Cypress, Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians.

"We've been waiting for this day for a long time," James Billie added. "There have been a lot of times when it didn't seem like it would happen, but we're here now and turning some dirt, so it looks like it's finally going to happen.

"We're getting all high sounding, calling it a hotel and casino. But, essentially, it's just another bingo hall. We've had a lot of success with bingo, and today, we're starting on another chapter in that story."

The story will take a new direction since the Tribe has reached a licensing agreement with Hard Rock Café International. The new facility will be called the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino.

"We're really excited to be a

part of this project and to bring the spirit of rock and roll to our customers," Scott Little, CFO and senior vice president, strategic planning, Hard Rock International said at the groundbreaking ceremony. "We love this partnership and are looking forward to seeing this become a major entertainment destination."

Rozeta M. Rad, Director of Tourism for the Greater Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, also is excited at what the new facility will bring.

"This facility will become one of the best drawing cards for Hollywood," Rad said at the ceremony. "This is going to be a first class resort and can compete with any property in south Florida. It's going to give us a whole new product to market for tourism. This is a wonderful day for Hollywood. It's going to put us on the map. I can't wait until it opens."

The Seminole Tribe of Florida currently operates casinos in Hollywood, Coconut Creek, Immokalee, Brighton and Tampa. The Tribe currently has plans to construct another Hard Rock licensed hotel and casino in Tampa, as well as develop a hotel/casino on the Immokalee Reservation.



Artist's site plan shows some of proposed development in 100-acre project.

## Tampa

**Continued from page 1**

"Super Bowl Wednesday" with her interactive musical children's show, including material and guests from her new video. The Hawaiian-born singer/songwriter has just finished a national tour, which included an appearance at the White House, and has been nominated "Children's and Family Entertainer of the Year" by the National Association of Campus Activities.

For further information, call the DNA hot line at (800) 535-2228.

# Chief Jim Billie

And  
Special  
Guests

Live at  
Tampa Theatre

Jan 24 – FREE –

711 Franklin St. (813) 274-8286

8 p.m.

DVD  
Taping

## SCOTT H. CUPP

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELOR AT LAW  
CRIMINAL LAW

SCOTT H. CUPP, P.A.  
663 WEST COWBOY WAY  
P.O. DRAWER 2250  
LABELLE, FL 33975-2250

(863) 675-2888  
FAX (863) 675-3044

## WE'VE GOT YOUR TICKET!

Life is too short to sit in the back . . .  
We offer up front seating for



ADMIT ONE

**Concerts u Theatre u  
Sportsu Local &  
Nationwide events**

# ULTIMATE TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT

**A FULL SERVICE TRAVEL AGENCY  
CALL TODAY**

**FOR CONCERT & SPORTS TICKETS  
(305) 444-8499 or (800) 881-8499**

**FOR TRAVEL (305) 445-6566 or (877) 445-6566**

### Upcoming Events

r Backstreet Boys	r Doobie Brothers
r Cirque Du Soleil	r Gipsy Kings
r Aaron Carter	r Sarah Brightman
r Jimmy Buffett	r U-2
r Doo Wop Reunion	r Pantera
r Miami Grand Prix	r Styx/Reo
Speedwagon	
r Panthers	r Heat

Operated by Grand Residents

## 3rd Annual Kissimmee Slough shoot-out and Rendezvous February 3 and 4 2001

**B**e on hand for this historic *Millenium Event* when 200 years of Seminole history come alive! This is South Florida's premier living history festival. You will see authentic Seminole and U.S. soldier encampments, demonstrators of early 19th century culture, traders of pioneer and native goods, and traditional Seminole arts & crafts. The weekend will culminate in the reenactment of a skirmish between U.S. forces struggling through a wilderness and Seminoles fighting for thier homeland circa 1840. Come join the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and the Seminole Tribe of Floridia in celebrating our rich culture!

**AH-TAH-THI-KI Museum - On the Big Cypress Reservation west of Fort Lauderdale. Take I-75 (Alligator Alley) to Exit 14, then north 17 scenic miles**

**For more information call (941) 902-1113 or (954) 792-0745.**

**\$6.00 adults, \$4.00 seniors and students, children under 6 free.**

[www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com)







## Reflections By Patsy West

## When Manatees Were Hunted For Food

*Note: Scott Baxter from Atlanta (sbaxter@lanier.com) is interested in Seminole hunting practices in regards to the manatee. He also wanted to know if the Seminoles utilized manatee hide or ivory.*

Early in the 19th century before the Seminole Wars, the Seminoles hunted manatee to supply meat to the British turtle hunters who docked in the Florida Keys.

In the latter 19th century, river

mouths and bays appear to have been the manatee or sea cow's favorite areas where these mammals swam in herds. They were a favorite food of the Seminole who pursued them in their cypress dugout sailing canoes. When a herd of manatee was sighted, one was singled out and pursued. The hunter, positioned in the bow of the canoe, harpooned the manatee when it surfaced for air. Attached to the harpoon was a rope with a buoy, so that when the manatee sank injured to the bottom, the hunter could locate its position.

When the manatee rose to the surface to breathe, the hunter was ready with a rifle to make the kill. Manatee meat tasted very similar to pork according to my South Florida pioneer grandmother, whose family and friends feasted on manatee taken on Little River in North Miami.

I do not have records that show either manatee hide or bone was utilized by the Seminoles for trade or personal use.

— Reflections Number 184.



Robert Osceola on a manatee hunt on New River, Fort Lauderdale ca. 1890s.



Photos from Fort Lauderdale Historical Society Stranahan Collection.

Hunters show off freshly killed manatee that was lifted onto the Stranahan dock.



Tom Gallaher with Lynda Falcone, Director of Canadian Sales and Marketing, Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau, man booth at event.

## Seminole Lure Canadians

**WESTON** — In front of a colorful mural of the Everglades, Florida Seminole Tourism was promoted last month at the Wyndham Resort and Spa in western Broward County.

Tom Gallaher, Development and Promotions Coordinator for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, handed out pins, posters, and brochures to about 300 travel agents, tour operators and suppliers attending the conference of GIANTS, the Greater Independent Association of National Travel Services.

Lee Tiger, Director of Seminole Tourism Development, helped kick off the event Nov. 19 with a "peace pipe" presentation ceremony to John Kennedy, Executive Director of GIANTS Travel Ltd.

The 15th annual conference was brought to Fort Lauderdale through the efforts of Lynda Falcone, Director of Canadian Sales Marketing for the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors

Bureau, and Alfredo Gonzales, Director of International Sales.

"We're really enjoying a tremendous amount of success in the Canadian market right now, as seen by the number of occupancies, especially in the Fort Lauderdale beach area. And GIANTS is one of the key players in the retail area of Canada, bringing people to south Florida," said Gonzales.

Founded in 1968, GIANTS is a consortium of independently owned and operated travel agencies. The organization now has over 850 travel agency members across Canada and 1,200 agencies in the United States. The purpose of the conference is to allow the owners and managers of member agencies to network with each other and meet tourism suppliers.

Participation of the Seminole Tribe was part of the ongoing partnership with the Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau to promote South Florida tourism.

## Charley Tigertail: Early Trader Helped Everyone

*Note: After we received the letter below, correspondent Vida Volkert prepared the following report:*

*Hello, my name is Alvin. Could you please e-mail me a photo of Charlie Tigertail? Today people don't have heroes. Well, Charley Tigertail was a great man with a trading post below the old Loop Road and was friends with George Whites and the Brown family. He helped whites and Indians alike and was a true human being. I wish I could have met him.*

Alvin Lederer  
Naples

**By Vida Volkert**

Sometime in 1902, a period of rough frontiersmen where violence dominated the South Florida scene and the daughters and sons of the Seminole Indian survivors of the Seminole Wars (1835-1842) were struggling to reemerge as a Tribe, Charley Tigertail left his garden in the wild Everglades in search of a dream.

The visionary Indian, dressed in colorful regalia, paddled his canoe across marshes and swamps in the direction of the then growing city of Miami, emerging as a prosperous community that attracted investors from all over the states.

Charley Tigertail arrived in Miami and docked his canoe on the banks of the Miami River near the center of the town. He walked across the main streets where he found skeptical and snobbish women clothed in fancy dresses and hats decorated with feathers of different native birds.

He walked next to white men in their leather boots, belts and hats, who smoked cigars. Colorful signs advertising the different businesses hung on the walls of the two story buildings of the main streets. How different than his native wild but quiet Everglades was this fast-growing community.

Tigertail walked with confidence and dignity into the local supply store in search of a gasoline motor, boards, beams and shingles. Once he found them, he walked out in the direction of his canoe.

After the skillful Indian had attached the motor to his canoe, he put the cargo inside the boat and set back for the Everglades. This time he made a quicker trip, the sound of his motor scaring the alligators and the birds.

In the Everglades he chose a strategic spot and with the help of friends began building what was to be known as Mr. Charley Tigertail's Store, the only Indian store ever known to exist in the region until the completion of the Tamiami Trail in 1928. Rare for that time — early 1900s — Charley Tigertail was a literate man born and raised in the Everglades.

"He could speak English as well as he could speak the Seminole Indian language," said historian Patsy West, author of *The Enduring Seminoles, from Alligator Wrestling to Ecotourism*.

Although nobody knows with certainty how or where Tigertail learned the white man's language, the white man's language he taught himself, merely driven by ambition.

"He was very ambitious and wanted to succeed in the white man's world, and that was rare in a Seminole at that time," says West. "They [Seminoles] were not normally driven to associate with whites. They still had fear and caution."

West explains that this was a time in which the English language was forbidden to the Indians. In an effort to preserve the integrity of their Indian cul-

ture, the Tribal Council did not allow the Indians to venture into the white man's world. "Anyone caught learning the white man's language was to be punished," said West.

But regardless of the punishment and the obstacles that an Indian raised in the wilderness could have encountered, Charley managed to speak, read and write English.

According to the late historian Charlton W. Tebeau, author of three popular books *Florida's Last Frontier, The Story of Chokoloskee and They Lived in a Park*, Charley Tigertail grew up between the Chokoloskee Bay area and the Big Cypress swamp.

The Chokoloskee area is the lower peninsula from Naples to Biscayne Bay and is surrounded by hundreds of small islands, swamps, hammocks and marshes. Today the Tamiami Trail crosses this area and connects it with civilization. Back in the early 1900s, however, there were no roads or highways in the area and the only access was by boat or canoe.

At that time, the Seminole Indians were primarily agriculturists. The surviving Indians of the Seminole Wars used the Chokoloskee lands for cultivation rather than settlement. Most of them lived "in the mainland outside the



TRADERS: Charley Tigertail with Ted Smallwood.

"canoe run from the head of Rock Creek that joins Lostman's River and Broad River, toward forty mile bend," recorded Tebeau in his *Florida's Last Frontier*.

Charley's store was a three-story wooden building with a dock leading out into the water.

With this enterprise he became known among whites as well as Indians, and his trading business ran from Chokoloskee to the Everglades and Miami. There he traded furs, skins and feathers and even operated a motor launch built for him by Captain George Storter.

Tebeau believed this trading post to be a gathering place for Indians "who hunted southward where there was little or no dry land for camping."

But by 1910 Tigertail went out of business. Tebeau reported Tigertail to be "a victim of giving too much credit." Whether Charley Tigertail continued in the trading business is not known for sure, but it is known that with the opening of the Tamiami Trail in 1928 the traditional ways of the Indians changed forever.

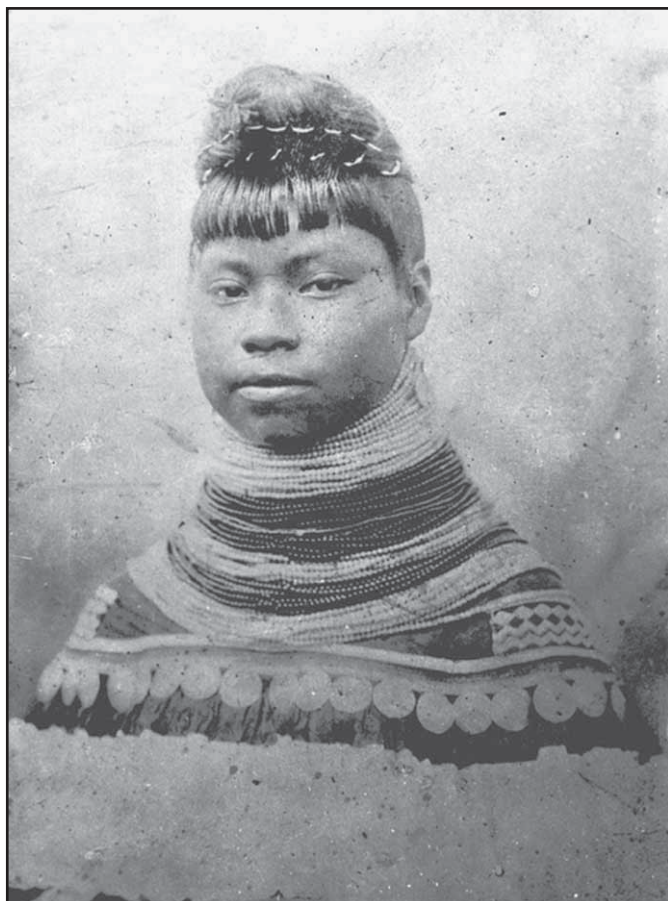
The Everglades became accessible for whites from the east and the west coasts as well. Now they could drive their automobiles across the Everglades without the need of an Indian guide or without fearing the wilderness.

The Seminoles also evolved with the construction of the Tamiami Trail. They learned to sell their arts and crafts and began gathering along the edges of the Tamiami Trail to attract

tourists.

Charley Tigertail for his part learned to drive and acquired an automobile. Unfortunately, he drove it into the Tamiami Trail Canal and drowned. This was the end of a visionary man who challenged the boundaries between two cultures marked by a devastating past.

His legacy remains intact, as he was the first businessman among the Seminole in his own particular way. For the most part, Charley Tigertail challenged his culture and traditional ways but made his dreams come true and died in the search for new dreams.



Charley Tigertail's daughter Ruby was often at his store.

Everglades," A.J. Duncan, the Secretary of the Interior, reported in 1898.

Charley Tigertail appears in the list of Indians with a garden in the area reported by Duncan. It is presumed that Tigertail therefore spent his youth in the Chokoloskee area, learning about agriculture techniques.

But Tigertail also developed skills in navigation, for he left the agricultural path for a more adventurous life. "He [Charley Tigertail] did things that were contrary to what other Indians did," said West. "With his store Charley Tigertail ventured in a business usually run by white men."

His store was located on a

Little Mr. and Little Miss Seminole  
2001 - Contest

Sponsored by  
Seminole Tribe of Florida, Inc.  
Mitchell Cypress, President  
At  
Laura M. Osceola Stadium  
Seminole Tribal Fair Grounds  
6:00 p.m., Friday, Feb. 6, 2001

Contestant must be an enrolled Tribal Member between the ages of 3 to 5 by Feb. 9, 2001 No Exceptions

For more information please contact any of the following people:  
Hwd: Wanda Bowers or Ginger Tiger; Imm: Sheila Aguilar; B.C: Mary J. Coppedge, Alice Billie, Jeanette Cypress, Brtn: Salina Dorgan

2001 Seminole Tribal Fair - Pow Wow & PRCA Rodeo  
Lit'l Mr. & Miss Seminole Contest  
Little Mr. & Miss Seminole - 2001  
Contestant Application

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Contestant# \_\_\_\_\_  
Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tribal Enrollment Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Reservation: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Guardian) Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s)/Guardian Print \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant must be an enrolled tribal member between the ages of 3-5 as of Feb. 9, 2001. Must be 3 years by Friday, Feb. 9, 2001. No Exceptions.

Registration Deadline is Friday, Feb. 9, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. All contestants must be registered by Deadline - Contest Begins at 6:00 p.m. at the Laura May Osceola Stadium.

Lit'l Mr. & Miss Contest  
Tribal Fair Committee



# Fort Barnwell: Court Martial Saga Was Played Out At Supply Post

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

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon

**VOLUSIA** — On the morning of April 14, 1836, a burial party was sent out of Fort Barnwell carrying the bodies of two dead soldiers who had suffered from the measles and dysentery. They were to be buried in the military section of the Volusia Cemetery.

The burial party was returning from the cemetery after burying the two dead bodies when the Seminoles attacked them and two soldiers were killed. Since the attack came as a surprise, the soldiers rushed to save their own lives and ran back to the fort, leaving two dead comrades on the ground.

Maj. William Gates was in command of the fort. On hearing the commotion, he ran to see what was happening. He sent no one to help the men and decided it would be imprudent to rescue the dead bodies. Gates felt it would be irresponsible to endanger the lives of the men inside the fort. Most of them were very sick and weak and would be unable to fight.

The Seminoles waited outside the stockade. They knew it was dishonorable to leave the dead lying on the ground without a proper burial. Sooner or later, the soldiers would go to their rescue. Gates waited 24 hours before a rescue attempt was made.

“After waiting all day for a sign of a rescue party the Seminoles left in the night content with what they had accomplished. The Seminoles knew that the U.S. would want to avenge the dishonor brought upon them,” says Lilian D. Gibson, author of *Annals of Volusia* and *Early Days of Volusia*, which trace the history of Volusia County.

The Seminole warriors tried to prepare for the counterattack that was coming. Meanwhile in Washington, President Andrew Jackson was informed of the attack in Florida and was planning his next move.

“Once President Jackson heard of what happened, he immediately removed Gates from his command,” remarks Gibson. “He heard of the attack via the *Savannah Georgian*, a local newspaper.”

The *Savannah Georgian* had printed on March 30, 1836, “We regret that we cannot relieve the anxiety of our Carolina brethren by publishing the names of those slain at Fort Volusia (Barnwell).”

“The foray produced a celebrated court-martial,” states John Mahon, author of *History of the Second Seminole War*. “The charge against him (Gates) was that he had left two bodies lying outside the works of Fort Barnwell and had made no effort to recover them for a full 24 hours,” says Mahon.

Gates was appalled that he was being accused of a crime. He felt he dealt with the situation in an appropriate manner due to the circumstances he found himself under. Gates was no newcomer to the military. [He was] “A crusty old New-England-bred West Pointer who had been in the army since 1806,” as described by George Walton, author of *Fearless and Free*, which recounts the Seminole Wars. At the time of the court martial, Gates’ rank was Major of the 1st Regiment Artillery.

On June 7, 1836, Gates was convicted by the court and prohibited from further service in the army.

There had been many testimonies, some exonerating him, others accusing him of wrongdoing. But what sealed his fate was the testimony of Gen. Winfield Scott, commander of Florida at the time.

“Gen. Scott had left Gates in charge of the fort and he expected him to handle all matters appropriately. He felt there was no excuse for not recovering the bodies in an appropriate time frame,” says Gibson.

“The officer was stricken from the rolls of the Army by his order, on the 7th of June last, upon a full consideration by me of the proceedings of a court of inquiry held at his request for the purpose of investigating his conduct during and subsequent to the attack on Fort Barnwell, at Volusia, in Florida, in April last, which court, after mature deliberation on the testimony before them, expressed the opinion “that the effective force under the command of Major Gates was much greater than the estimated force of the Indians who attacked him on the morning of the 14th of April 1836, and that therefore he was capable of meeting the enemy in the field if necessary; also that the bodies of two volunteers killed were improperly left exposed, and ought to have been brought in on the morning when they were killed, such exposure necessarily operating injuriously on the garrison,” wrote President Jackson in his Executive Journal.

Gates was disgraced but never gave up on clearing his name. He had defenders who stood by his side. They all got together and pleaded for the court to review the case. “In time they, convinced the high command that under the circumstances it would have been imprudent to risk living men to rescue two dead bodies,” states Mahon. On Jan. 7, 1837, Gates was restored to his rank of major. He was exonerated of all the charges against him.

“I nominate William Gates, late major of the 1st Regiment of Artillery, for reappointment in the Army, to be major in the 2nd Regiment of Artillery, to take rank from the 30th May, 1832, the date of his former commission,” wrote President Jackson in his Executive Journal dated Dec. 27, 1836.

Fort Barnwell is most remembered for the court martial of Maj. Gates since the attack of the burial party was so highly publicized at the time. But the fort, also, played other important roles in the U.S. Army while it was garrisoned.

Like many forts in Florida, Fort Barnwell went through several name changes. “You know the English, they always like changing names when they were in control,” Gibson says.

“St. John’s (River) was first named San Juan but when the English took over they translated it. I believe it sounded so much prettier in Spanish,” remarks Gibson. Mrs. Gibson’s family moved to Volusia in the early 1800s and she has lived there her whole life. She is 87 years old.

“My great uncle served in the Third Creek-

Seminole War and was stationed at Fort Barnwell,” Gibson says. “He belonged to the Florida Militia not the regular army. I remember reading letters he had sent to my father during his time there telling him of how life was at the fort. It was a tough life from what I remember,” says Gibson.

“Fort Barnwell was located on the east side of the St. John’s River, atop a shell mound. It was made of lightwood pine or cedar. The fort was built there because from there you could see everything around you, nothing could surprise you and since it was so much above ground there was a cellar constructed. Not too many places have cellars in Florida since we are so near the ocean,” remarks Gibson.

It was first established as Fort Columbia in Feb. 27, 1836. The fort was named Columbia after the volunteers from Columbia, S.C., under the command of Capt. D.C. Elmore.

“Captain Elmore’s Company of Columbia S.C. Volunteers . . . came on the steamship Santee to establish a fort at Volusia,” read the *Niles Weekly Register*, a local newspaper printed at the time. In February 1836, Gen. Scott, newly appointed commander of Florida, set up his headquarters at Fort Columbia and planned to fan out from Volusia in three wings, which were to descend on the Indian stronghold at the Cove of Withlacoochee. He was waiting for volunteers to arrive to continue his campaign.

“The fort changed names to Fort Barnwell, when volunteers from the district of Barnwell, S.C., arrived under the command of Capt. Allen around March 24, 1836,” states Gibson.

Once they arrived, Gen. Scott tried to start his attack on the Seminoles. Maj. Gates was left in command of the fort. Fort Volusia was important for the army because it served as a major supply depot. Many different stores were located at the fort. But, sickness and disease took a dreadful toll on the men in the fort. Florida weather always caused many soldiers to get sick easily. The heat, mosquitoes and the dampness were a haven for disease.

So many men were dying that burial parties were a near-constant duty. The last thing the fort needed was to spread some disease from maintaining the decaying bodies within the fort walls. It was on one of these burial parties that the attack took place.

“This led to the court martial of Gates,” says Gibson, meaning that the Seminoles were aware of the movement around the fort. Scott was never received in Florida. Many felt he did not have the capacity and was not trained properly to be able to put an end to the war.

“Unfortunately he was neither fortunate nor amenable to Indian warfare. He had after all copied from the French the drill manuals then used by the U.S. Army, and was thoroughly steeped in European methods of warfare,” says Mahon. “But, that style of fighting was useless against the hit and run tactics of the Seminoles.”

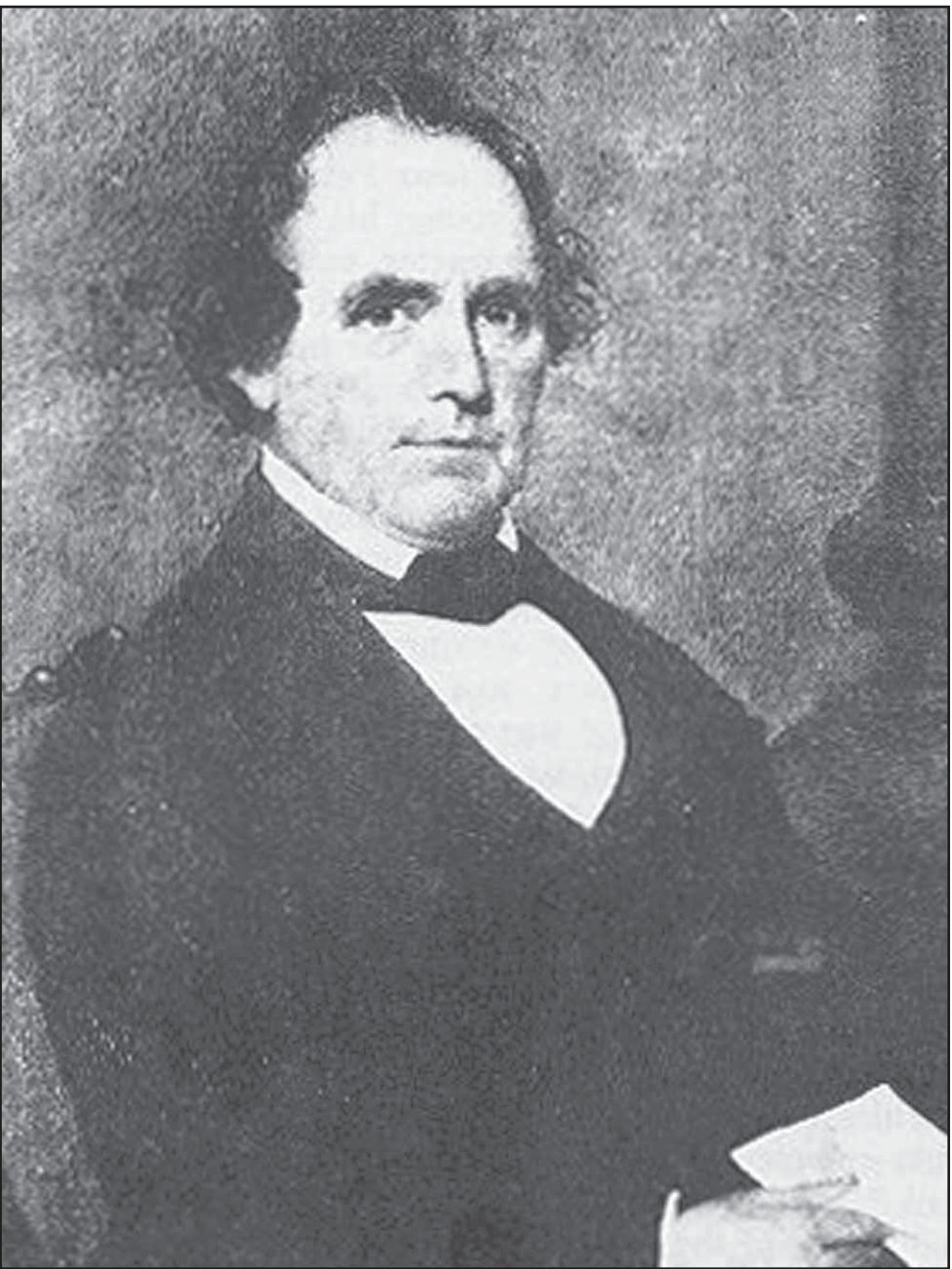
Still, when Scott started his campaign the U.S. appropriated money for the war in Florida.

“Congress took its first notice of the state of conflict clearly existing in Florida. On Jan. 6, 1836, Churchill C. Cambreleng, a Jacksonian from New York and chairman of the House Committee on Military Affairs, acting for the administration, proposed that \$80,000 be appropriated to suppress the hostilities in Florida,” says Mahon. “The appropriation rose to \$120,000 and on Jan. 29, a second act allotting \$500,000 more to defeat the Seminoles.” In addition, “the governor had power to borrow \$20,000 for defense of the Territory.”

With this much money appropriated and no results, many non-Indian/Floridians became infuriated and asked for the removal of Scott as commander

of the war, they wanted an end and did not see one coming with Scott in charge. They demanded change.”

“Scott’s campaign was almost certain to fail because the Indians were too mobile and too vigilant to be caught between the slow-moving, noisy columns trying to converge upon them. To end the war in one campaign would have required the inven-



Gov. Richard Keith Call — civilian in command of military troops.

tion of a new method of using soldiers against Indians on a large scale.

“The lack of knowledge of the terrain, the unprepared state of the military, the need to gather large supplies in a hurry, the terrible conditions of transport, the foul weather, and the determined nature of the foe, — it is surprising that Scott got his three wings into the wilderness and back again at all. But that is the only praise that can be offered him, for the campaign was by no means a work of genius,” says Mahon of Scott’s campaign.

Change came when President Jackson gave Richard Keith Call, governor of Florida at the time, command of the forces in Florida.

“On May 30, Gov. Call again wrote directly to the President,” states Mahon. He was sharply critical of Scott’s campaign, and boldly sanguine about what he himself could do if officially given the task.

“Here was his proposal: use the Withlacoochee as a supply line, for by means of the river supplies could be brought within 20 miles of the hostile villages in the Cove; feint an attack with horsemen while supplies and men were being pushed up the river in fortified boats at night; when prepared and in position, beat Osceola once and the Seminole war spirit would wither. Jackson liked this proposal.

“Rarely before had a civilian been given command of a field army made up, not only of his own militia, but of militia from other states and of units of the regular army. At this time Call had no army rank. He had been a regular officer for eight years, but in 1822 had resigned his commission to take up the practice of law in Pensacola. Consequently, his only military title was that of commander in chief of the militia of the Territory of Florida.”

“Call was known as dynamic and commanding in manner,” says Mahon. “He had a powerful, melodious voice and friends called his manner imperious and feared his temper. The unfriendly labeled him selfish, lofty and arrogant. He could not forgive those who by his sensitive standards had affronted him.

“One Tennessee volunteer recorded in his diary that he was unwilling to act as ‘laquey boy’ to little upstart foppish lieutenants of the regular army

of disease. “The summer of 1836 was a time of frustrations for the new commander in Florida,” writes Mahon. “It was an uncommonly sickly season, and Call himself was from time to time severely indisposed.”

Call could not start his campaign until the end of summer because he was waiting for the volunteers to come serve in the army and the supplies needed to equip the men. When Call did start his campaign he had problems with communication and his orders were not followed.

“Frustrated as he was, Call yet continued optimistically to plan for his summer campaign, now pushed into the fall,” says Mahon. “His basic idea was to hem the Seminoles in by means of four supply points, all accessible by steamboat. Two of them, one at Tampa and the other at Volusia, were already in operation. As of Sept. 8 he had not been able to establish the last two because of the lack of manpower.”

Call and his command had small skirmishes with the Seminoles throughout his campaign. The biggest fight came on Nov. 21, 1836 at the Battle of Wahoo Swamp. It was also the last battle of Call’s campaign.

“The objective was the fighting force of the Indians which, according to all signs, was concentrated in Wahoo Swamp across the Withlacoochee from the Cove,” says Mahon. “When Call arranged his line opposite to them (Seminoles) it extended for a mile: the Tennessee brigade on the right, the regulars and Florida militia in the center, and the Creek Indians on the left. At the general’s command the line moved forward in extended order across the open field.

“All held their fire until within 50 yards of the well-protected Seminole position, then they blasted and charged on the run. The fire was returned but soon the Indians began to give ground. The entire organized line, now badly disorganized, floundered through the dense swamp growth in search of the foe. Wading through mud and water for a mile and a half, the Creek wing at length reached a running stream about 10 yards wide, which looked deep because the water was black. From the far bank the Seminoles, led by Cloud (Yaholoochee) and Osuchee (Cloud) (Yaholoochee) opened a destructive fire, indicating that they had made another stand.

“Unit by unit, man by man, the rest of Call’s army floundered to the bank of the branch and added its firepower. A heavy gun battle continued across the ribbon of water until around 3:30 p.m. One man had tried to cross the bank but got shot and disappeared into the darkness of the water. This scared all the men and no one tried to cross the bank again; instead they chose to retire and seek a supply point.

“Later investigation revealed that the narrow branch could easily have been forded. The blackness of the water concealed the fact that it was only three feet deep. Had someone had the courage to try, he would have discovered this, and a crossing would have been decisive, for it would have laid open to the white army a settlement where 200 Negro men and 420 Indian warriors with their women, children, and gear had lived since the start of the war,” states Mahon.

After the Battle of Wahoo Swamp, Call headed toward Fort Barnwell (Volusia) arriving there on Nov. 22, 1836. A few days later he received a letter from the Secretary of War, Benjamin F. Butler. He was being relieved of his duty. Call’s campaign was over.

On Dec. 2, 1836, Call wrote a letter in defense of his campaign. He really came close to ending the war but he was ill-equipped, most of his men were sick and hungry which led to them being disgruntled and resigning or leaving when their service terms were completed.

“What hurt the most was that his old friend, the President (Jackson), had judged him on hearsay evidence,” says Mahon. “Call never forgave Jackson and from that time forward slowly moved out of his party.

“To his (Call’s) credit, no other commander would come as close as he did to bringing the main body of the Seminole warriors to bay,” says Mahon.

On Dec. 9, 1836, Brev. Gen. Thomas Sidney Jesup arrived at Fort Barnwell (Volusia) and took over the command of Florida. He was arriving from the Indian War in Alabama.

“A flare-up among the Creeks in Alabama in the spring of 1836 had produced a near panic in Washington, lest Seminoles reinforce Creeks or vice versa,” says Mahon.

Jesup had been able to put an end to the war in Alabama quickly. President Jackson applauded his effort and gave him the command of Florida.

“His opening instructions were to achieve what Call had failed to do: attack the Seminoles in their strongholds and drive them from the area between Tampa Bay and the Withlacoochee River. Beyond that, he was to use his own discretion,” states Mahon.

Jesup moved on with his campaign. He asked for more men and the equipment necessary to end the war.

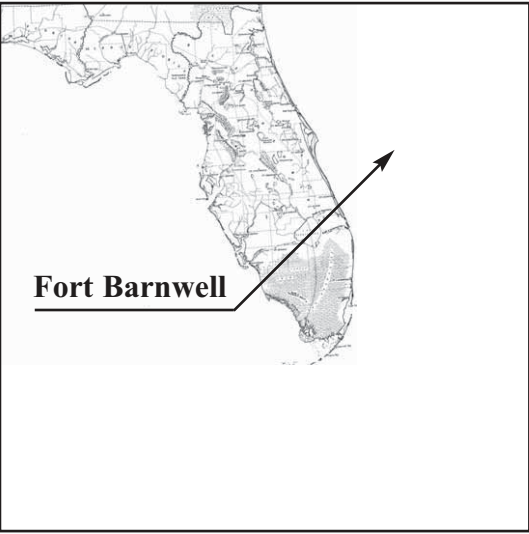
“While crossing the peninsula on the way to relieve Call at Volusia, he concluded that both Fort King and Volusia were poorly situated to serve as depots,” states Mahon.

“On Jan. 27, 1837 at the Battle of Hatcheelustee, the volume of fire which ensued was battle-size, but otherwise the action was formless. The soldiers overran an Indian camp where they captured 100 ponies, half of them loaded with packs. About five Indian noncombatants and 23 Negroes were bagged, as usual the warriors got away.”

The battle produced some negotiations with important enemies. On Feb. 3, 1837, the soldiers discovered that Jumper, Micanopy, and Abraham had been captured. The three were ready for a talk.

Jesup and the Seminoles agreed to end hostilities until Feb. 18, when they would meet at Fort Dade to talk about negotiations. Of course, negotiations meant that the Seminoles would agree to emigrate west. Jesup waited for the Chiefs on Feb. 18, but no one showed up. He was infuriated and started planning an attack.

Finally on Feb. 22, Chiefs Jumper and Cloud entered Fort Dade, which eased the tension, and the



Drawing by unknown artist shows Fort Barnwell, which played a role as a supply post along the St. Johns River.

of Florida. Scott did not have much success with his campaign. “Jealousy among the Generals at Fort Volusia will cause the failure of Scott’s campaign,” reported the *Weekly Register*.

“Everyone knew Scott was disliked,” says Gibson. “All those under him did not follow his orders. They were trying to get their names in the history books. There was no camaraderie among them so Scott failed. He had people to command but no one followed him. Everyone did their own thing. People

who thought it was a great condescension to speak to or notice a common person,” says Mahon

With all these negatives, Call took command of the forces on June 21, 1836 and immediately began his campaign against the Seminoles. His campaign was to be held in the summer. This was supposed to surprise the Seminoles since in the summer the army usually retired due to hot, damp weather, the forts would usually be abandoned, rivers would usually overflow and it would be a the season



## Fort Barnwell

Continued from page 4

negotiations continued. In early March, Jesup met with prime negotiators — Chiefs Alligator and Holahtoochee — and came to an agreement called “Capitulation of the Seminole nation of Indians and their allies by Jumper, Holahtoochee, or Davy, and Yaholoochee, representing the principal chief Micanopy.”

The Capitulation, which was signed on March 6, 1837, stated the following: (1) hostilities were ended, once and for all; (2) the Seminoles agreed to migrate immediately west of the Mississippi, . . . present themselves at a concentration point no later than April 10, 1837; and (3) the white men agreed to subsist the Seminoles from the time they turned themselves in at Fort Brooke (Tampa) until they reached their new homes, and thereafter for one year.

Many Floridians were not happy with the arrangement. By “allies” it meant the blacks would migrate west with the Seminoles. The Floridians would not tolerate this and put pressure on Jesup.

Jesup fell to the pressure and modified the Capitulation to include the demand that Seminoles surrender the runaway slaves who had become part of their band. He determined the destination points to be Fort Barnwell (Volusia) and Fort Brooke. In the summer of 1837, Fort Barnwell housed the blacks the Seminoles surrendered.

“The Indians had agreed to send slaves taken from white people during the war, to (Fort) Volusia and Fort Mellon,” says Gibson.

After that time, Jesup still kept Fort Barnwell (Volusia) active. But as time went by the importance of the fort diminished since Jesup decided it would no longer be used as a central supply depot.

“Fort Volusia was a pivotal supply point at one time,” says Gibson. “Many forts where supplied through Fort Volusia. Fort King for instance could only receive supplies from Volusia.

But, Volusia lost its importance as a supply point, then Fort Mellon, then even Fort Lane. The general directed the quartermaster to cut a road 25 or 30 miles from Indian River Inlet to the head of the St. John’s, and when it was completed to abandon the St. John’s as a supply line,” says Mahon.

Since he no longer planned to use the St. John’s River as a supply line, he continued building forts where he thought they were needed.

“He built another fort further up the St. John’s than any before it, about 80 miles straight north of the Okeechobee battleground. Because of the date on which the work began, the new log structure was named Fort Christmas, and by Dec. 30, 1837 it was completed and garrisoned with two companies,” says Mahon.

With the construction of Fort Christmas, Fort Barnwell (Volusia) and many other forts down the St. John’s River were abandoned. Slowly, time ate away at Fort Volusia, like many of the forts in Florida and little by little it disappeared.

“The fort was always known as Fort Volusia to those who lived around here,” Gibson says. “When a new person in command came to stay at the fort they would change the name, but it always has been and always will be Fort Volusia. No matter how many times they try to change the name,” Gibson clarifies.

“The fort was so well fortified that no one dared attack it,” claims Gibson. “Indians gathered

around several times, but they never mounted a full attack. When they saw where it stood they just turned around and left.”

When asked whether the fort still existed, Gibson paused before answering:

“The government, well, the State Road Department, took the shell mound away to build roads. They sold the shell and made roadbeds out of it because you know back then they had dirt roads and wagons and horses. Since the wagons were heavy they would sink in so they made shell roads which is the worst thing they could do because it was really something when we had the high hill there and we could see over the whole river and countryside.

“It was located on the hill and made of shells, marine shells . . . Florida had big high shell hills but then the road department took it away. It belonged to my family, but then the government took it away. My mother even put on my birth certificate: Fort Volusia,” claims Gibson.

“Fort Barnwell was located on the hill on the east side of the St. John’s River where Route 40 meets Volusia and Astor. It’s actually on the county line between Volusia County and Lake County. Now the Dillard House is there and there are other residential homes all around the area.

“The Dillard House was my parents’ home and now my daughter lives there. The only thing left to remember the birthplace of Volusia is a marker that is on a 400-year-old tree stating, ‘The Birthplace of Volusia Town, Oldest Town in Volusia County,’” recalls Gibson.

“I believe I know the reason why it was called Volusia,” she says, in opposition to what most history books say; the name Volusia came from one of the first settlers, a Belgian native whose name was loosely spelled and loosely pronounced “Volousee.”

“The Indians that came to visit me long ago said you live here where the pretty shells are and they called them ‘voluta,’” Gibson says. “I looked up that word and it means the shells that are rolled to a sharp point. That’s what those Indians told me and they were there. I believe them. They are like conch shells, except they come to a point, and that’s where they were on the shell hill mound.”

In addition to conducting extensive research on Fort Volusia and Volusia County, Gibson has donated all the artifacts that she has found on the land to the Barberville Pioneer Settlement. The items include Indian pottery and shells, English and Spanish coins, military buttons from the Seminole War period, and an arrowhead collection.

Marilyn Breeze, Director of the Pioneer Settlement, says, “We do two guided tours and if you specifically want to see what Mrs. Lilian had donated you can say that when you come in and the tour guide will make sure that they get to see all of that.”

“We are hoping that Lilian (Gibson) will come up and translate all of it (artifacts) and give us a little background on the fort,” Breeze says. “She’s the only one that really knows the history of it,” remarks Breeze.

The Pioneer Settlement is located at 1776 Lightfoot Lane on Highway 40, five miles east of Astor. Its hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed on Sundays. There is a charge of \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children.

For further information, please call the Barberville Pioneer Settlement at (904) 749-2959.

## Draino The Gator Finds A Home

By Libby Blake

**BIG CYPRESS** — Draino the alligator found a new home Friday, Jan. 12 when the alligator from Billie Swamp Safari released him into a five-acre cypress dome natural habitat at the popular tourist attraction and wildlife preserve.

Draino had been recuperating at Everglades Holiday Park, on Griffin Road west of US 27, since his removal from a West Boca Raton drainage pipe on Dec. 29. Neighborhood children nicknamed the 10-foot alligator who had resided in the pipe for about a month before wildlife officials came to his rescue.

State animal trapper Rick Kramer was concerned about releasing Draino into the wild after its sojourn in the drainage pipe. “You cannot take him out of the pipe and put him back in the wild,” Kramer said after removing Draino from the pipe. “They need to run tests on him to make sure he is not disease-ridden.”

Concern was also expressed by area residents since the gator had been hand fed during his time in Boca. “It won’t have the fear of man. If you did release it in its habitat, it would always have the knowledge it was hand fed,” said David Eastep, who lives across the street from the drainage pipe.

“The Safari can provide a safe natural habitat for Draino. The cypress dome at Billie Swamp Safari is fenced in with an elevated boardwalk winding through it. Draino will have five acres to roam in and will not come into direct contact with humans,” said Lucy Evanicki, Marketing Director for the Safari.

Alligators are normally killed after being trapped because the state is overpopulated with the rep-

tiles. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said they could pose a serious threat if they lose their fear of humans.

By Florida law, the trappers could have killed the animal and sold the meat and hide. Because the Boca area residents had become somewhat attached to the gator, Kramer decided to hand him over to Holiday Park.

Allyn Szejko, of Wildlife Rescue, coordinated the move with Kathy Britt, an alligator handler at Gator Island in Holiday Park. Britt had given the medical clearance necessary for the move. Because of Draino’s size and interaction with humans, Holiday Park was not able to provide the gator with a safe environment.

With Safari alligator handlers Jacob Osceola, Gator John Kenyon, and Jonathan “Cat-tail”

Vasquez, Draino was transported to the Safari via Gatormobile. The knowledgeable Safari staff will provide him with the expert care needed for his survival. Draino is estimated to be around 25 years old and, with the proper care, should live another 50 years.

Since his discovery in the drainage pipe, Draino has received lots of media attention. His move to the Safari was no exception. Ted Scouten, a reporter from *WFOR – CBS Channel 4*, and Nickolas Bourne, a reporter from *WPLG – ABC Channel 10*, were on hand to cover the transport for their respective stations. Print media from the *Palm Beach Post*, *Boca Raton News*, and the *Sun-Sentinel* also covered the story of Draino.

Visitors to Billie Swamp Safari can see Draino by following the nature boardwalk, which meanders through the area just past Chickee Road.



## SEMINOLE TRIBAL FAIR AND RODEO FEBRUARY 8-11

### Seminole Crafts Contest

#### Prizes

**First Place \$1200**

**Second Place \$700**

**Third Place \$500**

**Fourth Place \$200**

#### Categories:

Seminole Patchwork Clothing (skirts, jackets, capes, etc.)  
Seminole Dolls (made from palmetto fibers)  
Woodwork (made from cypress wood, etc.)  
Beadwork  
Basketry (made from sweetgrass)  
Seminole patchwork or designs (one yard of one design)

#### RULES & REGULATIONS:

- 1. ITEM MUST HAVE BEEN MADE WITHIN THE PAST SIX MONTHS TO ENTRY DEADLINE.
- 1. ITEM CAN NOT BE SOLD THEN RETRIEVED TO ENTER CONTEST.
- 1. ONE ENTRY PER PERSON, PER CATEGORY.
- 1. PERSON SUBMITTING AN ENTRY MUST BE THE ORIGINAL ARTIST AND A MEMBER OF THE SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA.
- 1. NO REPEAT ENTRIES
- 1. DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES BROUGHT TO THE HOLLYWOOD TRIBAL OFFICE IS WEDNESDAY FEB. 7 AT 5 P.M.
- 1. DEADLINE FOR ALL ENTRIES IS THURSDAY FEB. 8 AT 8 A.M. AT THE TRIBAL FAIR GROUNDS.
- 1. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE PICKED UP ON SUNDAY BY 3 P.M. NO EXCEPTIONS!

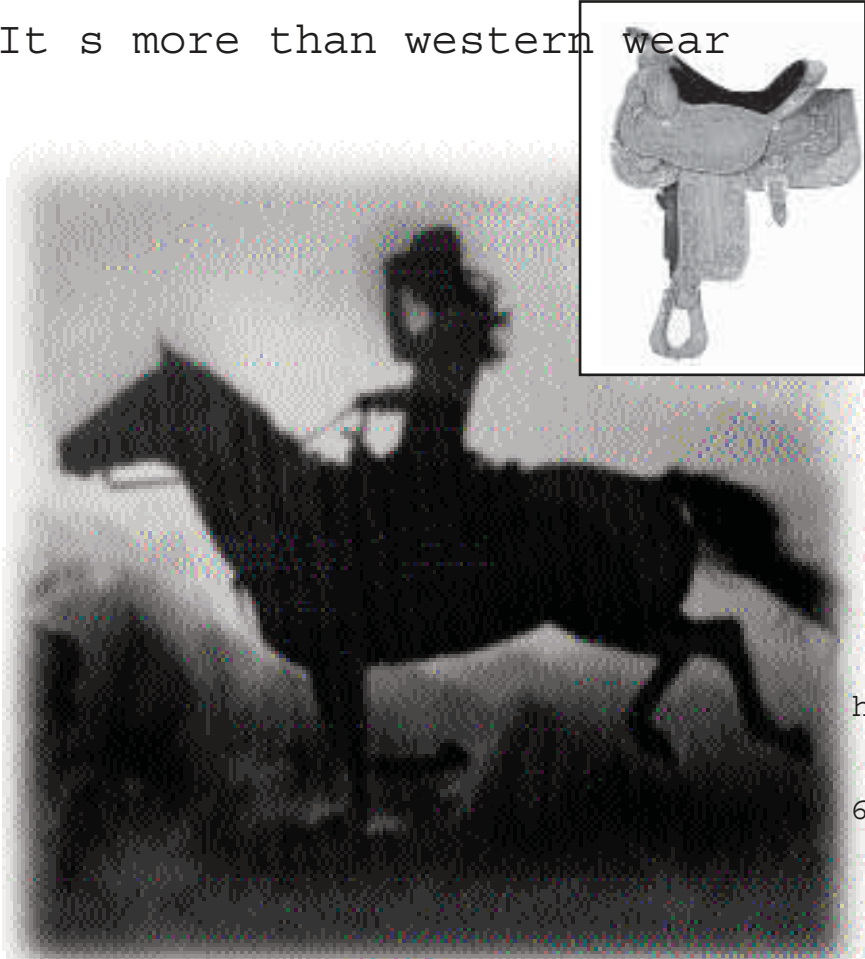
The Tribal Fair Committee will not be responsible for any items that are not picked up by 5 p.m. Sunday night.

It is more than western wear



how the west is won

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



. . . It is a way of life.

## Paula’s Furniture

WE SPECIALIZE IN  
LOG BEDS  
RUSTIC FURNITURE  
DRUM COFFEE TABLES



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

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



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

Suspended License • Revoked License • Traffic Tickets • DUI

# LICENSE PROBLEMS?



## Maybe We Can Help?

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

320 S. E. 9th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL. 33316

# 954-760-7600

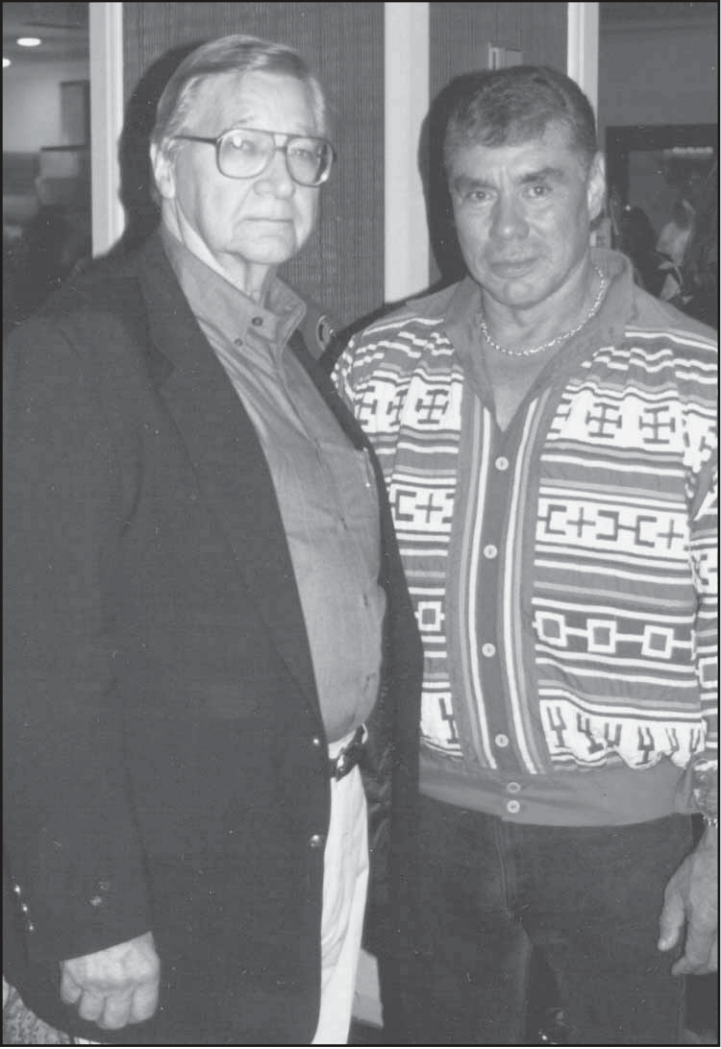
The hiring of an attorney is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience.



Community News

# Mural Dedicated At Coconut Creek

**By Libby Blake**  
**COCONUT CREEK** — A portrait of the Seminole Clans and Chief Billie, a 24 by 5-foot mural by artist Donald G. Renner, was unveiled



Artist Donald Renner, Jim Billie at Coconut Creek unveiling.

before a huge crowd at the Coconut Creek Casino during a special ceremony held Dec. 15. Tribal citizens and officials, along with casino patrons, gathered round as Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie, accompanied by sons Micco and Kowoko, presided over the festivities. Before the unveiling, Billie introduced Mitchell Cypress, President of the Seminole Tribal Board, Mayor Marilyn Gerber and Commissioners Harold Sacks and Sam Goldsmith of Coconut Creek, Vice Mayor Robert Mark of Parkland, Mayor Joe Schreiber and Commissioner Edward C. Portner of Tamarac, and Danny Tommie, Tribal Gaming Department Operations and Compliance Officer. The painting portrays Chairman Billie surrounded by the Everglades and animals representing all the clans among the Seminole Tribe. Tribal citizens and dignitaries mingled throughout the casino as employees presented them with an assortment of hors d'oeuvres and wines. Some of those spotted among the crowd included Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola and wife Marge, Laura Mae Osceola, Joel Frank, Vincent and Loretta Micco, Charles Hiers, Vivian Osceola and husband Angel Delgado, Tate and Robin Osceola, Virginia Garcia, Alan Jumper, David Osceola, Dan and Leoda Osceola, Jimmie O'Toole Osceola, and William Osceola. Jo-Lin Osceola, Coconut Creek Casino Manager, thanked everyone "for coming out to witness the unveiling of this special portrait." The casino provided 3,000 Chief Billie T-shirts and white chocolate portrait candies for the guests. The festivities and unveiling ceremony were filmed by the Broadcasting Department to be aired on the Seminole Network.

# Teen Describes Fitness Program

**By Casey McCall**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — I want to tell you about this weight loss class I had taken. I lost about four to five pounds doing this class. It taught me and a couple of my friends Joey, Michael, Nicholas, Bobby, Morgan and Me (Casey) to be better friends and be more happy about ourselves, because I think we all lost some weight. A couple of things I want to tell you is that this class was pretty fun. It was like we weren't even exercising. It was like we were playing but still losing weight and some of the other times we were working hard. We were working so hard my legs and arms were sore. I was just hurting all over. But the instructor said you have to get out of your comfortable stage if you want to lose weight and he pushed and never let any of us say "I can't."

don't, but most of the time we do. But we don't just work out, we learn things, too, like we learned about diabetes and what it does to you and how long it takes you to get it bad. We learned about eating right and what not to eat if you are overweight. Just try any thing to lose weight. You'll be happy, comfortable and healthy, so try and remember you have to get out of your comfortable spot to lose weight and control your eating habits and if you do all these things, I promise you'll lose weight. The way I did it my mom Wanda Bowers, my sister Chrissy and a lot of my friends and family encouraged me to lose weight. If you have a friend that's trying to lose weight or even you, try to influence him in doing harder and harder. Not only will he feel happy, you will too.



Teen fitness participants received a double bonus: They lost weight, gained friends.

But we did go to fun places. Like one Friday we went to a place called Game Works, now that was fun. I think it's better than Boomers. But we always try to do something fun every Friday, sometimes we

right way and my mom for always being there, even when she didn't want to. Next time Max and Mitchell should come with us to Muscle Beach.

# Hazardous Waste Collection Available

**By Libby Blake**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Got old, half-empty containers of paint, pesticides, oil, cleaning fluids, or other chemicals around the house? Worrying that the container is deteriorating and the contents might leak out? What if the kids get into it, or the pets? The trash man won't take it, so how do you dispose of it all? In an effort to reduce the amount of hazardous waste being disposed of or stored improperly and harming the environment, children, or pets, Broward County is offering a free drop off site for flammable, toxic, corrosive, and reactive wastes. "The goal of the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program is to educate Broward County residents about the dangers associated with hazardous waste and encourage proper waste management," says Anthony Thomas, Environmental Health Specialist for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. "We have a lot of children and pets on the Reservations these products could harm if not stored and disposed of properly. Tribal citizens now have a place to get rid of these potentially lethal items." The disposal site is open every Saturday between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. The South County Transfer Station is located at 5601 W. Hallandale Beach Boulevard. Items eligible for disposal include paint, paint thinner and strippers, used oil, automotive fluids and gasoline, solvents, pesticides, insecticides, fertilizers, pool cleaners, spot removers, oven and drain cleaners, furniture and metal polish, mercury, batteries, and tires. Biohazardous waste, explosives, flares, fire extinguishers, or propane tanks are not permitted. Thomas suggests contacting the program for instructions on what to do with these items. Before taking your items to the disposal site

there are a few safety precautions to know to reduce the risk of accidents. When possible, wear protective gloves during all handling of the materials. Items should be kept in their original containers. Never mix chemicals. Label materials not in their original containers. If the contents are unknown, label it to the extent possible. If you are unaware of the specific product name, provide the category, such as pesticide or cleaning product, label the outside and date it. All lids should be tightly sealed. If the container is leaking, place the original container in a larger one, pack with a non-flammable absorbent such as kitty litter to absorb any possible leaks, seal the lid tightly, and label the outside container. Once the items are packaged, care must be taken in transporting them to the site. Ideally items should be transported in the back of a pickup truck or a car trunk. If you must transport them inside a vehicle, make sure there is adequate ventilation. Do not smoke while transporting hazardous material. Flammables should be kept out of direct sunlight and away from all sources of heat, sparks, flames, and ignition. While it is important to teach children environmental lessons, the drop off site is not the best place to do it. Leave your children and pets at home. Even if the child or pet remains in the vehicle, they would be at risk as they are more susceptible to fumes than adults. Thomas encourages all Tribal citizens to make use of this free program. "These items are not only unsightly they are dangerous to the land and the people. Besides, how often does the government give you something for free?" *Information for this article was submitted by Environmental Health Services.*



Tampa children will have new facilities, including playground featuring slides and climbing equipment.

# Tampa Opens New Recreation Center

**By Mark Madrid**  
**TAMPA** — A new recreation center on the Tampa Seminole Reservation had an official community warming on the second day of the New Year 2001. It was a chilly day with temperatures dipping into the upper thirties. Even as cold as it was outside and the door being opened continually by community members entering and exiting, the temperature inside remained comfortably warm. All the happy faces and the aroma of just barbecued ribs added to the warmth. Due to the increase in the population of Seminole children in the Tampa area the community was in need of a larger center. According to Barbara

Sanchez, in 1982 her daughter Chiza was 2 years old at the time and the only child in their community. Now there are just as many children as there are adults — maybe even more if you count the newest ones. Debby Henry and Lilla Henry are the two ladies who have been working with the kids at the old recreation center and will continue at the new center. Debbie said it gives all the community kids a place to stay busy and be safe after school while their parents are working nearby. The new center will be open Monday through Friday during work hours. There will be games for all ages along with arts and crafts.



Guests were able to purchase authentic Indian hand-crafted items from many Tribal vendors at show.

# Miccosukee Celebrates 26 Years Of Indian Arts & Crafts Festival

**By B. Secody**  
**MICCOSUKEE** — Since 1975, the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida has hosted a holiday season celebration with their production of the Indian Arts Festival. Under the leadership of Buffalo Tiger, who served as Chairman of the Tribe for more than 26 years, the Miccosukees gingerly began to invite foreign guests to come and share their normally private lifestyle and learn about the small band of Indians who survived the treacheries of the United States government, yet managed to thrive in an area where most people would have gone mad — either from the elements, seclusion or wildlife. Today, the Miccosukee Tribe has become one of the most successful Indian Tribes in the United States, and has still managed to keep its culture and traditional way of life intact despite all the material resources which have become available to the Tribe. Many still prefer to live in the traditional way they grew up and most everyone still teaches their children that Miccosukee is their first language. This year's Indian Arts celebration brought a schedule of events that was enjoyed by hundreds of visitors and spectators who packed into the Amphitheater. Entertainment included the Bird Chopper Drum Group and Dancers, Jackie Bird and family with their own popular style of songs, hoop dance and drums.

Arts and crafts booths inside the village mingled with the smells of cedar, sage and lavender wafting through the air. Pottery, beadwork, and wood carvings were only a few of the items available to tourists and guests by Miccosukee and visiting tribal artisans. It has always been a rule that only Native American Artists are allowed to sell at this particular festival, while any craftspeople are welcome to sell their wares at the Music Festival held annually in July. Food booths remained packed, with never-ending lines stretched out half the length of the food area. Some actually ran out of certain food items before day's end on opening day. Visitors marveled over the Miccosukee Museum, located in the rear of the village. It is filled with an array of beautiful paintings, carvings, photographs, original clothing and other items used by people hundreds of years ago. Next to the museum is the home of monster gator "Tiny" — which has been there forever. Several other very large gators loll about the area warning their huge, leathery bodies in the warm sunlight. Man versus alligator has always been a hit with visitors who "ooh and aah" over the brave young man who holds his hand inside the gator's open jaws and holds those same massive jaws closed with only his chin. The diverse crowd of spectators, who jam the arena, are then rewarded with a rare



Cheyann Fox, Lester and Danny Skinner (l-r) examine reptiles at the event.

The Zuni Rainbow Dancers and Oyate Wanji Singers and Dancers were both crowd pleasers, but no group drew more attention than the Miccosukee Fashion show. This event is always a colorful extravaganza with handmade patchwork creations guaranteed to mesmerize visitors. Tribal citizens generally model their own creations, but the children who model the small outfits, always steal the show and the hearts of the crowd.

day season has managed to make its appearance and slip away for yet another year, when time will repeat itself and the Miccosukee Indians will again prepare to welcome their guests to share a portion of their lives and their history for a week-long celebration of special friends, family, fun and good food.





# Seminole Country Christmas

---

## Hollywood • Big Cypress • Ahfachkee School





# The Year Of The Chomp

The year 2000 came in like a lion — all hype and gnashing teeth. But relatively little changed. Air traffic control and computers and time as we know it did not come to a halt when the clock struck 12:00 on New Year's Eve. Instead, cheap champagne and a few other less traditional celebratory things were consumed, and the Phish came marching in on a giant hot dog in a pasture on the Big Cypress Reservation.

An estimated 80,000 people came to sit on the grass, camp out and watch the Vermont-based band perform at a three-day concert in Big Cypress. The Phish concert brought a bigger crowd than had ever visited that reservation before. The atmosphere was kind of crazy-hopeful, as if the next 1,000 years would have to be better than the last.

With less than one percent of the vote in, the results . . . seem too close to call.

The year 2000 saw plenty of progress — profitable new tribal businesses opened, including a new Coconut Creek Casino, and plans were announced to build a new, \$300 million hotel/gaming complex in Hollywood. Brighton and Tampa casinos were upgraded.

For personal achievement, how about Jo Jo Osceola? Along with sisters Mercedes and Tasha, she led their Sheridan Hills Christian School teams to district championships in basketball and cross-country, and she was named Junior Miss Seminole Princess in August. Desiree Jumper was chosen to represent the Tribe as Miss Seminole for 2000-2001.

The year also witnessed a whole lot of chomping going on.

In February, Chairman James Billie, who won his first major music award last year — a NAMMY for his Alligator Tales CD, lost part of the ring finger on his guitar-picking hand while doing an alligator wrestling demonstration. Videotape of the bout was the most-requested item from the world media. Everybody wanted to see the 'gator that bit the Chief — until another alligator took a bigger chomp out of Swamp Owl, the irrepressible guide at Billie Swamp Safari. Throw in a couple of snakebites — a copperhead latching onto "Gator" John Kenyon's arm in June, and a Western diamondback that bit Okalee handler Sean Trybala's hand in August — and we begin to see a pattern here. All four men recovered from the bites.

A spirited re-enactment of a 19th century battle — won by the Seminoles, of course — was held at Big Cypress. It looks like the Kissimmee Shootout and Rendezvous will be a fixture in February after its second year.

Also in February, the paintings of Noah Billie were collected and exhibited at the St. Petersburg History Museum, the first major showing of the late artist's work. Many gathered at the opening to pay their respects, including three native flute players: Sonny Nevaquoya, Robert Tree Cody, and multiple NAMMY-winner Bill Miller.

Spring brought more honors for former Chairman and current Seminole Communications Director Betty Mae Jumper, as she was photographed at the Council Oak for an exhibition on Florida Women of Achievement, and also honored by the National Indian Nursing Education conference in Tampa. At the same time, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum director Billy L. Cypress was named a distinguished alumnus of Stetson University.

For the first time, the Tribe hosted the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) Conference. In June, although Seminole Tribune writers and designers had won seven first-place

NAJA awards in the 1990-98 period, more restrictive rules kept the hosts out of the winners' circle this year. Just another chomp. The newspaper earned a measure of satisfaction when the Florida Press Club awarded the Tribune two first-place awards — to the staff for the special "Day in the Life of Big Cypress" section, and to Melissa Sherman and Brian Larney for best overall design. The paper also scored a 2nd place for investigative reporting from the Institute for Southern Studies for Charles Flowers' series titled "Return to Rosewood."

Rain came down in buckets this fall, and stayed, testing the drainage limits of Big Cypress and Hollywood, and causing older Seminoles, like Betty Mae Jumper, to recall how it was to live through the wet season in a chickee.

"The rain was always nice when you were sleeping under a chickee," she recalled. "Even though the huts were open, the chickees had a raised platform where we would sleep. They were very warm. It was always nice to be snuggled in your blankets while the rain was falling."

Although several were forecast, there were no major hurricanes in South Florida in 2000. Still, the University of Miami football team huffed and puffed and blew the Florida State Seminoles from the top of the collegiate rankings. FSU recovered in time to play for their second national championship in a row (the 'Noles defeated Virginia Tech to win their first title of the new Millennium in January 2000), losing to Oklahoma in the Orange Bowl. But



LOST DIGIT: Gator took Chief Billie's finger.



FOUND CANOES: DEP ombudsman Benji Brumberg, Chairman Billie, examine Pithlachocco, site of world's largest find.

the deflated Hurricanes had only the University of Florida Gators to beat up on in consolation at the 2001 Sugar Bowl in faraway New Orleans. One added consolation for Seminole Indian fans — the hand-carved war canoe that was a traditional trophy of the U-M-Florida contest since 1955 was remembered, and a once-hot rivalry revived.

The Miami family of Elian Gonzalez suffered a major chomp when federal agents came and seized the Cuban boy who was found floating on an inner tube on Thanksgiving 1999 and whose residency became a bigger issue — and perhaps a better predictor of the U.S. Presidency — than Al Gore's truthfulness or G.W. Bush's driving record.

That brings us to the Chomp of the Year — the Nov. 7 election for President. George W. Bush by



GLORY DAYS: Osceola sisters Tasha, Mercedes and Jo Jo excelled in cross-country, basketball.

a whisker of a chad, flying on a butterfly ballot without a postmark.

But not only Gore, the Democratic candidate, got chomped. So, too, did Florida when the

respect. From now on, we can all say, "As Florida goes, so goes the country." We just can't say for sure how that will go.

The Seminole Tribe continued to send ambassadors around the world. In September, a contingent of seven Tribal citizens departed for the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. The group staffed a Florida pavilion there, handed out promotional materials, and created lasting ties with Australia's aboriginal people. Earlier in the summer, the family of James Billie, whose band played the Copenhagen Jazz Festival, extended their stay as the Chief became the first American Indian to shake hands with a Viking on Danish soil. The Vikings would return the favor with a visit to the Tribe in the fall.

Nature revealed more truths to the Seminoles and the world. In June, a car was discovered in the L-28 Interceptor Canal on Big Cypress, as an unseasonal drought reduced water levels. Tragically, a search found the remains of two young men, including Seminole Malcolm Tigertail, who had been missing with his friend Manuel Pizana, 21, for more than a year.

In North Florida, a drought not seen in 70 years shrank the waters of Newnan's Lake near Gainesville, revealing more Indian canoes than had ever been found in one place before. The initial discovery of 87 canoes — dated to 3,000 B.C. — was marred by the fact that a State of Florida-permitted logging operation had damaged seven of them. The Tribe moved to protect the cultural resources, and to re-name the lake Pithlachocco — "place of long boats."

The year saw many beautiful children born, and significant Seminole citizens pass away. Gone but not forgotten were: Noah Billie, Adam Billie, William Jumper, Joe Bowers, Tom Bowers, Gilbert Bowers, Alice Huff Billieboy, Malcolm Tigertail, and Lottie Shore.

The Year 2000 graced us with many beautiful sights and sounds, and events better

left for history to decide. It didn't come with the advertised disaster, but Y2K still took a chomp out of all who lived it.

— Charles Flowers



BRIGHTON HALLOWEEN: Train full of treats.

state 25's Electoral College votes became the contested difference in the national race for President. Depending on the count (and there were many), voting citizens of the Seminole Tribe could have tipped the balance, as could have absentee voters in Seminole County. It wasn't too close to call. It was too close to call quits.

"Imagine," said one writer from Zimbabwe (a country in South Africa) "that we read of an election occurring anywhere in the Third World in which the self-declared winner was the son of the former prime minister and that former prime minister was himself the former head of the nation's secret police/intelligence agency . . ."

"Imagine that the self-declared winner lost the popular vote but won based on some old colonial holdover from the nation's pre-democracy past (the electoral college)."

"Imagine that the poorly drafted ballots of one district, a district heavily favoring the self-declared winner's opponent, led thousands of voters to vote for the wrong candidate."

"Imagine that members of that nation's most-despised caste, fearing for their livelihoods, turned out in record numbers to vote in near universal opposition to the self-declared winner's candidacy."

"Imagine that hundreds of members of that most-despised caste were intercepted on their way to the polls by state police operating under the authority of the self-declared winner's brother . . ."

Hard to imagine, but not hard to see why Florida — the land of the Seminoles — would become the target of ridicule even as it gained a real political



BATTLING BIG SHOT: Moses Jumper, Jr. at the Kissimmee Shootout.



OLD PROBLEM: Who'll stop the rain on Big Cypress?



SPORTS

Calf Ropin' For Dollars

**By Tommy Benn**  
**BRIGHTON** — Fast times and hard luck could be found at the Fred Smith Arena on the Brighton Reservation Saturday Dec. 16 during round two of the Roping Competition. Moses Jumper, Director of Seminole Recreation added \$1,000 to the jackpot. Action was fast and furious as ropers vied for the extra Christmas cash.

The roping is a "round robin," which means you get a chance to rope with every header if you're a heeler or every heeler if you're a header. The first round started with 180 teams, which was cut down to 46 teams by round two. Round three paid five places for the fastest time.

First place went to Billie Tiger and Josh Jumper who set the pace with a time of 26.15 seconds netting them \$347.50 each. Second place went to Cicero Osceola (header) and Naha Jumper (heeler) with a combined time of 30.43 seconds, earning them \$289.50 each.

Cody Ariola (header) and Sam Allison Jr. (heeler) took the third spot with a time of 37.05 seconds and \$231.50 each. Fourth place went to Willie Johns (header) and Louis Rimes (heeler) with a time of 38.44 seconds and \$173.50 each. Fifth place, with a time of 38.76 seconds, was taken by Cicero Osceola (header) and Amos Tiger (heeler), earning them \$116 each.

Results totals after round two in the race for the saddles are as follows: Headers — Cicero Osceola 27 points, Billie Tiger 23 points, and Joe Hill, Willie Johns, and Cody Ariola each with 13 points; Heelers — Rudy Osceola 25 points, Josh Jumper 23 points, and Naha Jumper 13 points.

Behind the scenes making sure everything



**Benny Hernandez eagerly awaits turn.**

stays on an even keel is the roping secretary and announcer Earleen Rimes. Husband Randy Rimes keeps the stop-watch. Rodney Osceola, Benny Hernandez, and Doc Gore kept the steers on ready status. Mary Johns and Lunnell Tiger kept the hopper pen and chute filled with steers. Al Curry from LaBelle flagged the team roping and tried to keep everybody honest.

Round three of the Roping Competition will be held at the Bill Osceola Memorial Arena in Hollywood for more information in the January date contact Park Jones (863) 763-3156 or Moses "Big Shot" Jumper (863) 983-9234.

Youth Complete Golf Lessons

**By B. Secody**  
**NAPLES** — Seven young people from the Immokalee Recreation Department gathered at the Briarwood Golf and Country Club in celebration of their achievements in the sport of golf on Saturday Dec. 23. David Billie, Assistant Recreation Director, along with wife Marie, arranged for the lessons, coordinated the program, and continually encouraged the children.

The youth diligently attended their lessons and practiced their swings and putting for three consecutive Saturdays. They also learned a "bogey" is not a dance and some "birdies" do not fly from instructor Buddy Dyer. Dyer was very impressed with the group and stated he enjoyed working with the young Seminoles. He added it was good to see youth today make a commitment and see it through. Club owner Wayne Dahlstrom echoed Dyer's sentiments.

In order to receive their certificates of achievement each student had to go through a short battery of testing skills. Brent Stuckey, a former PGA Professional golfer, was on hand to assist with the testing.

A couple of the younger students attended the lessons. Michael Shaffner, on the day with a score of eight, Michael was quick to remind everyone that he was the youngest of all the students and now he was also the best.

Deidra Hall will long be remembered as the young lady who almost hit a van with her ball and nearly clobbered this reporter. She exhibited a forceful swing and visibly enjoyed playing the game and her near miss.

Other members of the golf team who completed their training and received certificates

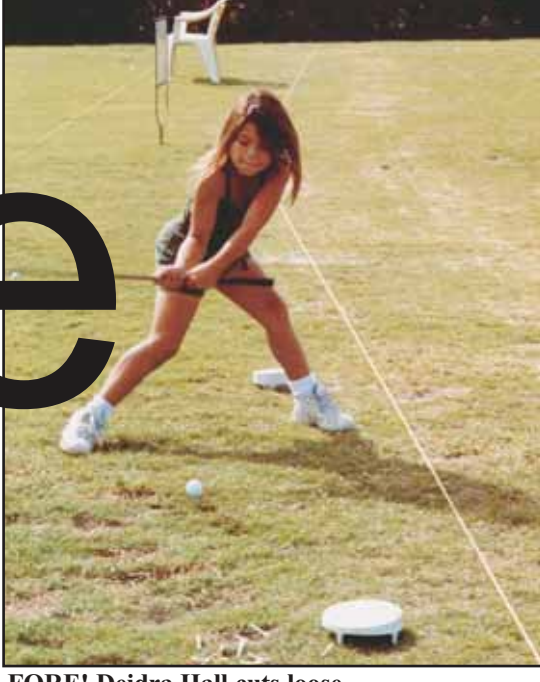


**WHICH WAY TO AUGUSTA? Junior golfers hold certificates.**

were Gary Frank with a score of 11, Ralph Sanchez Jr. also with an 11, Lazara Marrero with a 12, Deidra Hall with a 14, and Esmeralda Billie with a 15. Raymond Hall, who completed the course. He tied little Michael with a score of eight. Just to show what a good guy he is, Raymond relinquished the special award for low score, and gave it to Michael — who was all smiles over his victory.

Golf has recently become more popular with young people, possibly due to Tiger Wood's accomplishment at such an early age. It teaches good sportsmanship, is not an aggressive sport and provides proper exercise and fresh air for the players. More and more parents have begun to encourage their children to get involved in this sport and to stick with it. As many have found, golf equipment is not cheap by any stretch of the imagination, making it important that the child stay with the sport.

Congratulations to these young golfers for their accomplishments and endurance. They did not give up and quit when they made mistakes. Thanks to all the volunteers and club owners for their commitment to the youth of the Seminole Tribe.



**FORE! Deidra Hall cuts loose.**

63rd Annual Brighton Festival And PRCA Rodeo

<b>Thursday, Feb. 15th, 2001</b> PRCA Girls Barrel Race Slack — 10 a.m. PRCA Slack — 4 p.m. Princess Contest — 7 p.m.	<b>Friday, Feb. 16, 2001</b> Kids Day — 10 a.m. EIRA — 8 a.m. Pool Tournament — 6 p.m.	<b>Saturday, Feb. 17, 2001</b> <b>Parade — 10 a.m.</b> Introduction of Tribal Officials, County Officials, Queens, Princesses & Parade — 10:30 a.m. Johnny U and Band — 10:45 a.m. 5 Star Youth Club — 11:15 a.m. Baby Contest — 12 noon	Cloggers — 12:45 p.m. Blue Earth Dancers — 1:15 p.m. Aztec Dancers — 1:45 p.m. Women's Dress Contest — 2:45 p.m. Johnny U and Band — 3 p.m. 5 Star Club — 5:30 p.m. Men's Jacket Contest — 3:45 p.m. Alligator Wrestling — 4:15 p.m. Cloggers — 4:45 p.m. Blue Earth Dancers — 5:15 p.m. Aztec Dancers — 5:45 p.m. Gates open for PRCA — 6 p.m. PRCA Rodeo — 7 p.m.	<b>Recreation</b> Log Peeling — 3 p.m. Archery — 4 p.m. Caneo Racing — 4:30 p.m.	<b>Sunday, Feb. 18, 2001</b> Gates open — 10:30 a.m. Blue Earth Dancers — 11 a.m. Alligator Wrestling — 11:30 a.m. Johnny U and Band at Cowboy Church — 12 noon Aztec Dancers — 12:30 p.m. Blue Earth Dancers — 1 p.m. Alligator Wrestling — 1:30 p.m. Johnny U and Band Gates open for PRCA — 2 p.m. Aztec Dancers — 2:30 p.m. PRCA Rodeo — 3 p.m.	— Authentic Seminole Living Village on display all day at Culture camp. — 4-H animals on display at grounds.
--	---	---	---	---	--	---

FRONT ROW

TICKET BROKERS

LOCAL/NATIONWIDE

Order by phone or visit our website:  
www.frontrowusa.com

CONCERTS  
SPORTS  
THEATER

18170 W Dixie Hwy, 2nd Floor  
N Miami Beach, Florida 33160

WE DELIVER SAME DAY!

Cash or Credit Cards Accepted

FedEx

(954) 983-8499

ANY EVENT  
ANYTIME  
ANYWHERE

- Dolphins
- Heat
- Panthers
- Marlins
- NCAA
- NASCAR
- MLB-MLS
- NFL-NHL-NBA
- SUPERBOWL
- OLYMPICS

Florida Seller of  
Travel #25555

Immokalee Hosts Pool Tournament

**By B. Secody**  
**IMMOKALEE** — Immokalee Recreation hosted an all-Indian all-day Christmas Pool Tournament at the Pool Barn on the grounds of the "Seminole Wind" Youth Ranch and Rodeo Arena Saturday Dec. 23. Contestants from at least four reservations entered into the competition.

Mitchell Cypress, President of the Tribe, David Cypress, Big Cypress Council Representative, and Big Cypress Recreation sponsored the event. Play was free with prize money coming from these sponsors. In all, \$4,000 was up for grabs in each of the three events.

The day started off with the 8-ball competition. Forty players entered with the top winning slot in the men's division going to Elrod Bowers. (Poor Elrod, people don't even like to see him walk in the door. If memory serves correctly, he also walked away with first place honors recently at the Miccosukee Pool Tournament held at the Miccosukee Resort & Casino. It must be lonely at the top, but he somehow manages to endure — all the way to the bank!)

Second through ninth places respectively



**Amy Yzaguirre was just edged out and finished second.**



**George Grasshopper lines up shot.**

went to Luez Gopher, Jason Grasshopper, Tony Billie, Dallas Nunez, Randy Clay, Manuel Garza, Elmer Logan and David Billie.

In the Ladies division of 8-ball competition Dale Grasshopper edged out Amy Yzaguirre for first place. Third through ninth places were taken in order of win by Brenda Cypress, Juanita Osceola, Rita Billie, Virginia Billie, Susan Davis, Linda Billie and

Alvira Muskett.

Scotch Doubles competition was up next. Winners, from 1st to 7th place were Virginia Billie/Raymond Garza, Brenda Cypress/Tracey Smith, Linda Billie/Keeno King, Laura Clay/David Cypress, Susan Davis/Ralph Sanchez, Jenny Johns/Moke Osceola, and Linda Tommie/Marie Tommie.

Though the time was late, the crowd remained to compete in the final 9-ball event. In the Men's division, with Elrod nowhere in sight, George Grasshopper beat out Woody Wilson for first place. O.B. Osceola claimed third with David Billie staking claim to fourth. Robin Buster, Ralph Sanchez, Dallas Nunez, David Cypress and Bronson Hill rounded out the top nine.

Virginia Billie edged out Juanita Osceola to top the women. Linda Tommie took third place when she defeated Connie Williams in the semi-finals. Alvira Muskett, Jenny Johns, Jarel Billie, Miriam Colon and Susan Davis finished fifth through ninth, respectively.

Pool has been a favorite sport among young and old Seminole and Miccosukee folks. With each tourney, hoards flock to join in the competition — no matter where it is held. Many of those who entered are long-time pool players who have enjoyed the game for longer than they probably want documented, but watching these players, one can honestly say that they are not just getting older — they're getting better!

2001 SEMINOLE INDIAN 4-H  
YOUTH LIVESTOCK SHOW

**WEIGH-INS**  
FEBRUARY 18

STEERS — 1 P.M. — 5 P.M.

**BRIGHTON SHOW BARN**  
FEBRUARY 18

SWINE — 1 P.M. — 5 P.M.

SMALL ANIMAL — BEFORE 5 P.M.

**BUYER'S THANK-YOU LETTER IN ADDRESSED & STAMPED UNSEALED ENVELOPE IS DUE:  
MARCH 23 BY 5 P.M. AT THE CATTLE & RANGE OFFICE/4-H OFFICE**

**SHOWS**  
CHECK — IN  
HAVE YOUR ANIMALS READY TO SHOW BY 10 A.M.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19  
STEER SHOW — 10 A.M.  
SWINE — AFTER STEERS  
BUYER'S DINNER — 5:30 P.M.  
SALE — 6:30 P.M.

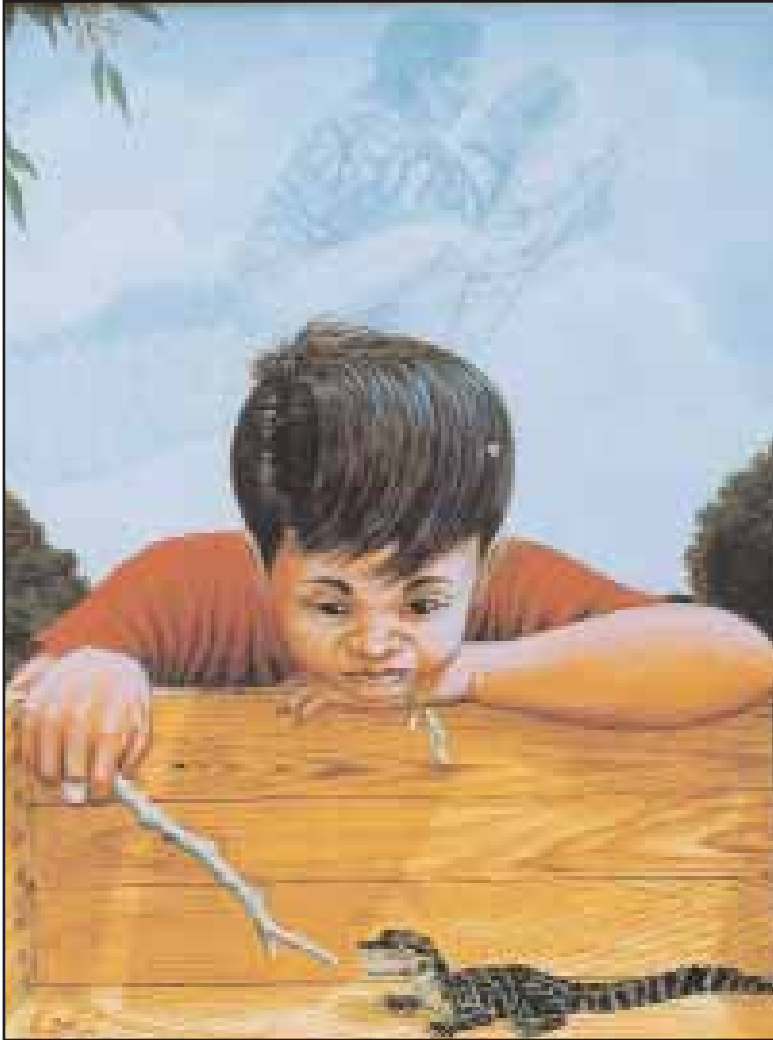




Doll Clan



A Seminole Girl



When I Grow Up

# The Legend Of Florida Artist Guy LaBree

## ■ Painter Of The Seminole

**By Colin Kenny**  
**ARCADIA** — Artist Guy LaBree’s studio is a small room inside a spacious trailer set on the edge of a heavily wooded 10-acre plot in the Desoto County wilderness. The first thing one notices in the dimly-lit studio is a 12-by-15 inch hunk of color that could be a chunk of candied coral reef or the roost of several technicolor seagulls.

In fact, it is a 50-pound mound of oil paint drippings, a veritable memorial to 43 years of finely tuned hues used by the man known as “Florida’s Barefoot Artist” and fossilized into a multicolored mesa that the Smithsonian should have on display.

For buried in this organic mound are the colors that put life into *The Corn Lady* scraping kernal from her legs and cunning into the Rabbit who tricks the Lion out to sea. The shade that breathes scary breath into the *Witch Owl* and scurries *Little People* crawling all over the tree bark. From Guy LaBree’s lifetime palette the *Battle of Okeechobee* emerges and Dade falls. The Crow is stunned by the angry *Twins* Fire and Lightning channeling a jagged blaze of wrath over a menacingly dark and turbulent sky.

If every picture tells a story, Guy LaBree’s palette tells hundreds.

The story of the *Black Warriors*, *Genesis*, *The Exodus*, *The Beginning of Humans* and the *Bridge To Eternity*. Vivid snapshots of oral legacies that have become the culture of Guy LaBree’s palette.

“I think in color most of the time,” says LaBree, originally a printer by trade. He says his paintings first appear in dreams. And then there are the constant images of the Florida he knew growing up, frozen in the photographic memory of his mind. All of this, along with an insider’s knowledge of the Seminoles, a meticulous attention to detail and dazzling use of color convey a transcendent authenticity in his paintings, capturing the very soul of a culture his very paintings help survive.

“Guy is a real gem,” says Seminole Tribal Chairman James Billie of his longtime friend. “Many of us, like Jacob Osceola and myself, shared with him our legends and stories, and formulated with his artistic ability. Then he’d have it come out better than what I was thinking at the time.”

It’s that ability to transcribe legendary and historical thought onto canvass that has made LaBree one of the nation’s most collectable artists.

“I know how to pop a bullwhip, so I guess I’m a cracker!” laughs LaBree citing the etymology of the word “cracker.” It’s part of his experience as a cowhand, a history shared with several generations of his family.

He was born Harry Guy LaBree in 1941, in Jacksonville Beach. Shortly after, his family moved to Dania where his father Edgar “Breezy” LaBree worked as an electrician and maintenance worker at the Naval Air Station. (now Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport). It was a prophetic move at a fortuitous time.

For he attended school at historic Dania Elementary School —



An Eerie Feeling

which accepted the very first generation of Seminole Indian students. LaBree became fast friends with Seminoles Eugene “Tank” Bowers, Dan Bowers and Jimmy, David, Harley and Alan Jumper.

LaBree spent much of his boyhood sneaking off to the Seminole camps on the Dania Seminole Reservation (now the Hollywood Reservation) where Indians still lived in open-air chickees without running water or electricity.

As much as Guy loved roughing it at the Seminole camps, his Indian brethren were even more impressed with the creature comforts of the LaBree family home, with its screen doors to keep out the bugs, a shower to stand under, and a refrigerator with pitchers of ice tea.

“Boy they loved that shower and ice tea,” he smiles.

They also loved that hi fi phonograph — it played Elvis!

As standoffish as the Seminoles could be to outsiders in those days, they warmly accepted young Guy LaBree; even then, he says, he felt honored to be so accepted and allowed to share in their unique culture. He wanted to be like Alan Jumper, three years his senior and on his way to a career as a big time alligator wrestler: “I followed him around like a dog. He was my hero.”

Another hero of Guy’s was the late Moses Jumper Sr., war veteran, gator wrestler and father of Moses “Big Shot” Jumper Jr., former star athlete and current poet laureate of the Seminole Tribe.

Then there was Moses Sr.’s wife Betty Mae Jumper, the first Tribal citizen to graduate high school and first elected woman Indian “chief” in America and the Tribe’s main “stickler on education.

“If the Indian kids cut class, Betty Mae would hunt ‘em down and drag ‘em back,” says LaBree, who says Betty would not tolerate any truancy among Tribal children. “She was very determined for those kids to go to school.”

For LaBree, it was all about having fun in those rural days of eastern Broward County. A time of running around barefoot — a lifetime habit — wrestling alligators, collecting snakes, spear-fishing on Dania Beach, and swimming with the manatees in the crystal clear New River.

Then there were the nights — of partying to Elvis records at Guy’s house, listening to the hoot owls in the Seminole chickees, doing all kinds of crazy wild things: on the cooler South Florida winter nights, for example, LaBree, along with buddies Alan and Jimmy Jumper, would do something utterly suicidal in today’s Broward. The teenage boys would lie in the middle of US 441, right along the centerline “to get the warmth of the road” — and not see a single car or truck pass from either direction for up to a half an hour at a time.

It was Lois Shanley, a close friend of the LaBree family who let Guy (or Harry as he was called then) borrow her oil paint set and showed him how to use it when he was seven years old. Shortly afterwards he produced his first painting.

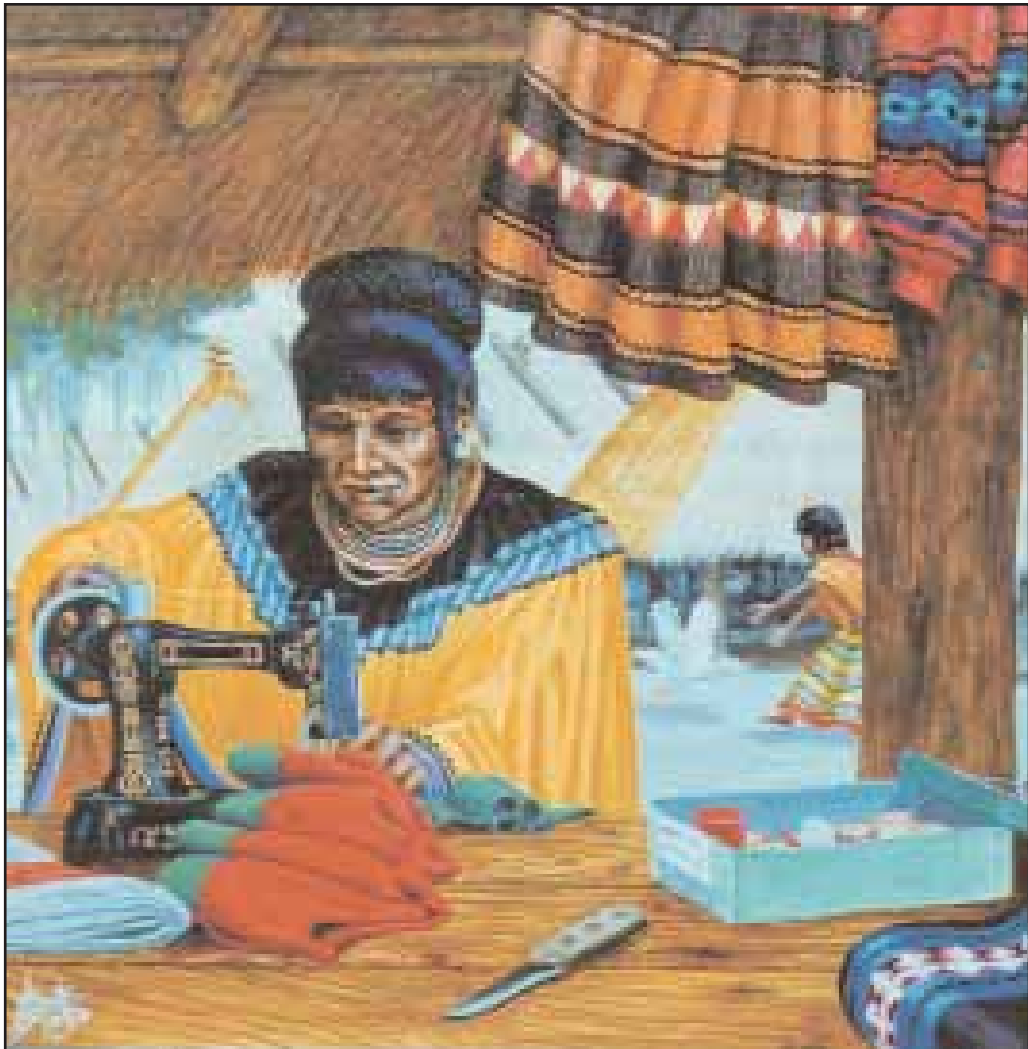
“It was a cardinal or something,” LaBree recalls. “It was kind of crappy.”

Undaunted, LaBree continued to dabble, exhibiting a budding

See LABREE, page 2



Grandma's Girl



Mikasuki Seamstress





Campfire Fantasy

## LaBree

Continued from page 1

natural talent. At age 11, he painted a Seminole man poling a canoe, loaded with supplies and two traditionally attired Seminole women through an alligator-infested swamp. Always his own worst critic, LaBree is quick to point out the inaccuracies in his first attempt to depict traditional Seminole life. For one, the yellow, red-striped canoe was not an authentic Seminole dugout, but rather one LaBree says he saw at a South Florida tourist attraction known as the Monkey Jungle. Nonetheless, the painting is still quite remarkable: a choice of colors beyond the comprehension of most 11-year-olds and a sense of perspective portraying the reflections of people, canoe and a flamingo in the water.

It was in his high school years that LaBree started developing an appreciation for the works of the Masters – the 17th century realism of Rembrandt and the 19th century English landscapes of John Constable. (He relates a story he heard about somebody asking Constable why he paints every leaf on the tree. “Because that’s what it looks like!” Constable replied.)

Then there was the over-the-top action and exaggerated characters of 20th century fantasy artist Frank Frazetta, who was perhaps best known for the definitive incarnation of Conan the Barbarian as well as illustrating the Edgar Rice Burroughs’ *Tarzan* series and Al Capp’s *Lil’ Abner* comic strip in the 1950s. “His look is very loose,” LaBree comments. “You can’t look at his stuff without feeling the movement.”

LaBree was in his junior year at South Broward High School when art instructor Harry Mallet recognized the teen’s talent and persuaded the school to buy the \$150 worth of art supplies the young artist needed but could not afford. After two years under Mallet’s tutelage, LaBree was offered two scholarships for the Ringling School of Art in Sarasota. But he didn’t think art was going to be much of a career for him in spite of the encouragement of others. “I was kind of a punk,” he said, “I had enough schooling.” So LaBree joined the Navy instead.

After a brief stint in the Navy, LaBree came home and married his high school sweetheart, Pat Dittmer, in 1961. He got a job working the loading dock at the McArthur Dairy, followed by a job working for Broward County as a surveyor, finally settling in a print shop as an apprentice lithographer.

By the 1970s, LaBree was putting in 18-hour days, six or seven days a week as a lithographer supporting his wife and their three children. He was making plenty of money, but it was becoming pretty depressing spending most of his life indoors in a dark dingy print shop. It had become what LaBree calls a “money trap.” He was on the verge of a breakdown when his wife started encouraging him to cut his hours and try art for a living.

LaBree says he started painting the usual stuff popular back



The 1948 Dania Elementary first grade class. That’s Guy LaBree next to the teacher (upper right). Seminoles include Judyann Osceola (next to Guy); Judybill Osceola (front row, fourth from left); Dan Bowers (to the right of Judybill); Dorothy Scott Tommie (third row, far right); Mary Louise Jumper (top row -- sitting -- second from left); Pricilla Sayen, (standing back left) and Eugene “Tank” Bowers (standing next to Priscilla).

then: floral paintings with white backgrounds, seascapes, mountain scenes, etc. He began offering them up for sale at sidewalk art shows. None of it was terribly inspiring to LaBree. Then one day he was talking to old friend, Seminole Alan Jumper.



Osceola’s Revenge

## Meet Guy LaBree Feb. 2

**ST. PETERSBURG** — Famed Florida painter Guy LaBree will be honored at an artist’s reception, 5:30 p.m., Friday Feb. 2 – the opening day of his exhibit at the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

The event will include speakers, entertainment, food and a cash bar in the lobby of the Museum, located on the Pier Approach (2nd Ave. NE) along the downtown St. Petersburg waterfront.

The exhibit will stand for six weeks and will include a retrospective of LaBree’s life’s work, including all of the LaBree paintings in the acclaimed Betty Mae Jumper book “Legends of The Seminoles.”

This is the third straight year the St. Petersburg Museum of History has featured a Seminole-themed exhibit. In 1999, the Tribe’s Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum featured a display of clothing and artifacts. The next year, the Museum hosted the first ever exhibit of the paintings of the late Seminole artist Noah Billie.

The event is sponsored by the Seminole Tribe of Florida and Eckerd College as part of the Tribe’s annual Discover Native America festival, which ends with a Powwow and Music Festival on the Eckerd College campus, March 3 and 4. For more information call 1-800-535-2228.

### Reception Agenda

Opening music: flautist **Sonny Nevaquaya**

St. Petersburg Museum of History  
Executive Director **Mathias Bergendahl**

St. Petersburg Mayor **David Fischer**

Eckerd College President **Eugene Hotchkiss**

Seminole Tribal Chairman **James E. Billie**

Author **Betty Mae Jumper**

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum  
Executive Director **Billy Cypress**

**Alan Jumper**

Poem by **Moses Jumper Jr.**

**Frank and Ann Thomas**

**Chief Jim Billie and Raiford Starke**

**Seminole Youth Dancers**

Book and print signing by **Guy LaBree**

“Why don’t you paint our people?” Jumper said.

That is when Guy LaBree decided to concentrate on painting what he really knew best: his beloved native Florida and the Native people he grew up with. He listened intently to the Seminole storytellers and rendered the imagery on his canvas. People started to take notice.

Judybill Osceola invited Guy LaBree to be the first white man to offer his paintings for sale at the Okalee Gift Shop. About this time, LaBree heard of a certain gator wrestler named James Billie who saw LaBree’s paintings in the gift shop and criticized them on points of accuracy. Obsessed with getting things right, LaBree sought Billie out to get the comments first hand.

Thus began a process of LaBree diligently listening to Billie’s critiques followed by the artist dutifully going back to his easel to make the corrections. This went on for a while until finally LaBree presented Billie with a certain painting.

“It was a picture of a guy telling stories to kids,” says LaBree. “He looked at me for few minutes and said, ‘How much do you want for it?’”

It was the first of over three dozen LaBree paintings Billie would purchase over the years. It wasn’t long before Billie got LaBree to do a one man art show at the Native Village in Hollywood. His toughest critic had become one of his biggest fans. In 1979, James Billie became Chairman of the Seminole Tribe, a post he holds to this day. LaBree paintings are featured on many of the walls in the Chairman’s office today.

In 1983, LaBree received an offer he couldn’t refuse – to move up near Arcadia and paint full-time. He would get paid a weekly salary, and in return a benefactor would own all of the paintings he produced. After 20 years of working in a place that required shoe wearing, he could now make a living and go barefoot again.

He and wife Pat found a secluded five-acre wooded plot a few miles from the Peace River where wild turkeys and the occasional Florida panther roam. Things went well for a little while until, “The checks started bouncing and it didn’t work out,” says LaBree.

The deal turned sour was a blessing in disguise, for LaBree had found enough faith in his art to resist the urge to get another day job. He continued painting full time, freelancing on his own; while he toiled in the studio, wife Pat was on the phone, at the copy machine, in the post office, handling the necessities of the “art” business world.

Soon, Pat was popping her head in the door of Guy’s studio, announcing, over and over again: “Sold another one!” Patrons were buying his paintings left and right and the LaBrees purchased another five acres right next door. Meanwhile the highly critical fine art community began to take notice: In 1994, LaBree was one of the few living artists to have a three-month exhibit at the Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota. Art curators from the Whitney and Metropolitan Museums in New York chose his work for display in juried shows.

“The rich culture and ancient ways of the Seminole Tribe spring to life under LaBree’s careful brush strokes. He researches and cross-references all the details in the finely-tuned oils. It is this integrity that imbues the work with a sense of realism that deeply touches the viewer,” said fine art critic Ellan Kovan.

“LaBree has created a body of work that will remain a testimony to a populace which made an indelible mark on Florida history. His work serves as a lasting tribute to (the Seminoles).”

In 1994, LaBree illustrated the book, *Legends of the Seminoles* by Betty Mae Jumper (Pineapple Press). June Cussen, owner of Pineapple Press, remembers LaBree as being “perfect for the book.” She cited that the book created “a lot of good feedback” regarding LaBree’s work.

It is the paintings in this book, and LaBree classics such as *Bridge to Eternity*, *Journey Through Time*, *Suspect Foul Play*, and many others that will be on display at the St. Petersburg Museum of history starting Feb. 2. The six-week exhibit will also include a retrospective of LaBree’s life.

Guy paints six to eight hours everyday, feeling guilty when he takes days off. In spite of being plagued by heart problems for the last six years, he still manages to complete anywhere from 15 to 35 paintings annually. At least half of his business has been with the Seminole Tribe. His biggest single patron is Naples stockbroker Bill Eledt, with Chairman James Billie running a close second.

“It’s amazing how Guy can take a rare moment from history and bring it to life,” says *Seminole Tribune* Operations Manager Pete Gallagher. “I once told him a story I heard about Seminoles attacking a traveling group of Shakespearian actors and stealing with their costumes.





Young “gator hunter” Guy Labree in his Dania backyard.

## LaBree

Continued from page 2

“Next thing I knew he had a full scale painting of that very incident. Now, I hear he’s going to work on something portraying the ancient canoes of Pithlachocco that he read about in the *Seminole Tribune*.”

Because of certain Tribal taboos, there are some aspects of Seminole culture that LaBree will not touch or allow to go public. The introduction to Betty Mae Jumper’s book quotes LaBree explaining:

“My rule is, if there is something secret, I don’t put it in there. I have been halfway in the middle of painting something and a Seminole will say, ‘I don’t think you should do it. That’s not well known,’ and I’ve stopped right there. I respect that. I don’t take it any further. So you see, I’ve got 20 or 30 paintings in my mind I can never do.”

When not painting, Guy likes to spend time with his family, which now includes four grandchildren. Together, they roast marshmallows in the stone barbecue pit amidst the palmettos, oaks and pines on the LaBree acreage.

On Thursday nights he can be found with his Sigma acoustic 12 string (“I got six strings on it”) guitar, picking old country tunes with his 13 year-old grandson Billy and friends at Gilcrest Park on the banks of the Peace River in Punta Gorda. He feels mighty fortunate to be able to live this kind of life doing what he loves best without having to struggle to make a living.



AWAY FROM THE PALETTE: Guy LaBree and granddaughter Melissa share a special moment.

“I haven’t had an honest job in 17 years,” he laughs. It doesn’t look like he’ll have one anytime soon.

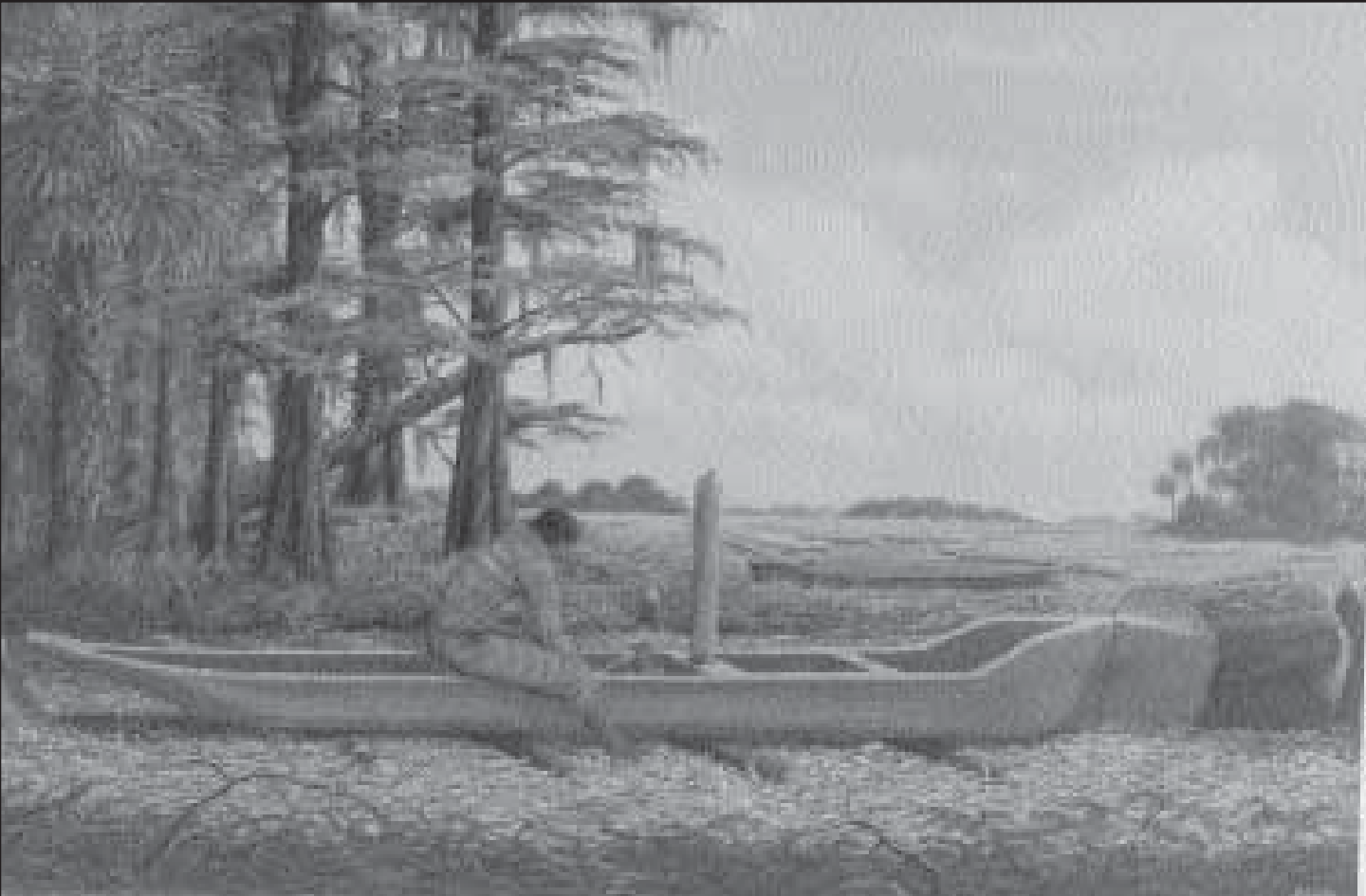
LaBree smiles and his eyes stare off in the distance. Wind rustles the leaves of a nearby tree. The scene is as timeless as the Florida he knows. It’s all in the canvas of his mind and may form the backdrop of his next painting. It will spring to life from the 50-pound palette of color that awaits his return.

**G**uy LaBree is an exceptional man in that he can see what most people cannot. This includes many of the Seminoles themselves regarding their own culture. I have called upon many of my brothers and sisters in my Tribe to paint a scene of our villages, but they always seem to miss the point. But Guy the “Barefoot Artist” seems to not miss anything. Guy LaBree was raised among us Seminoles, particularly Allan Jumper and Jimmy Jumper. He’s just a couple of years older than I am which gave him the opportunity to see the last of the Seminoles in their original habitat and their lifestyles. He is probably one of the few fortunate white men today who has seen the ending of the older Seminole generations. I would like to say “Sho Na Bish” to the Barefoot Artist for sharing with us what he sees.

— Seminole Tribal Chairman James Billie



Early LaBree painting.



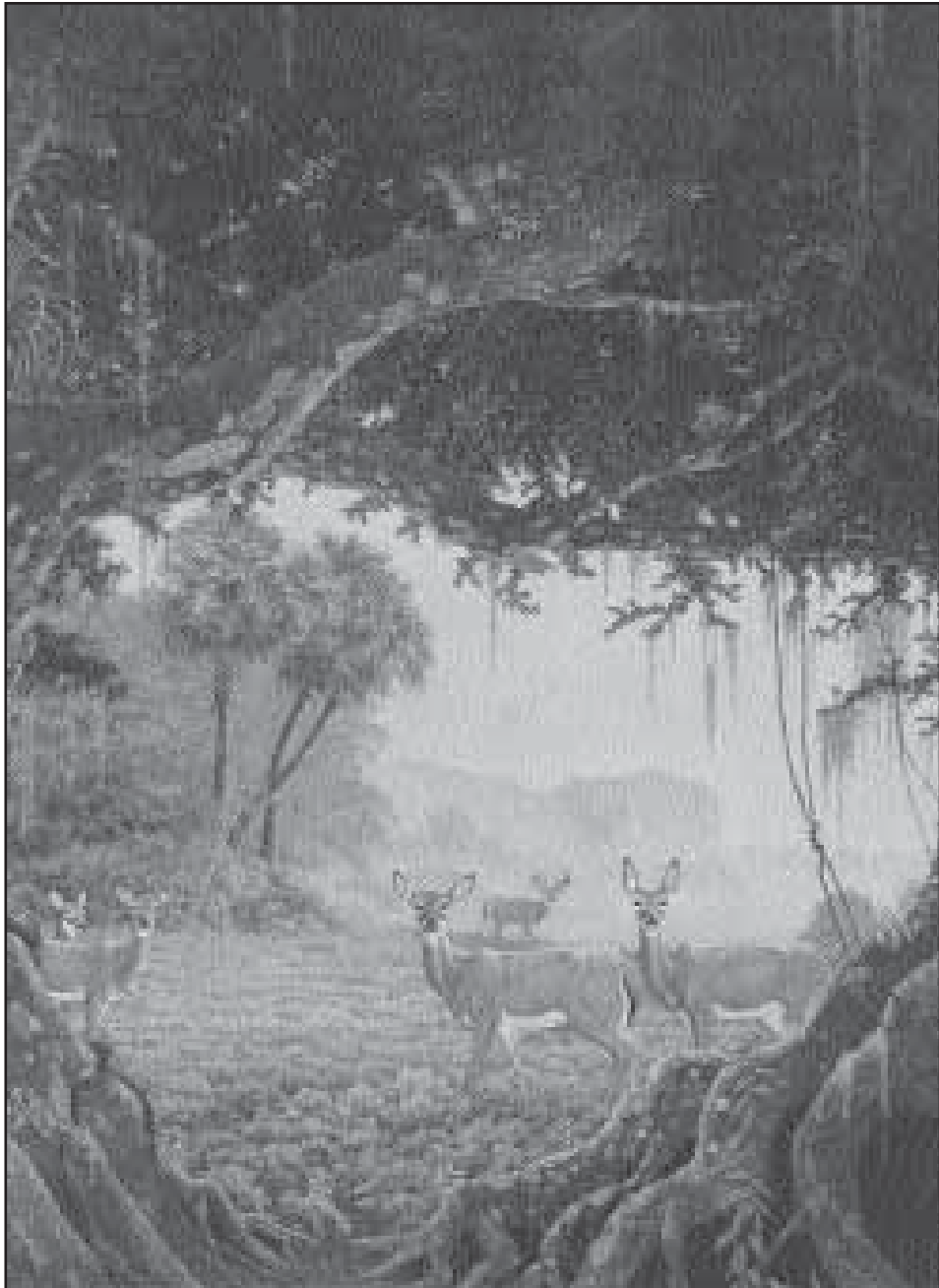
Boat Builder



Brighton Blvd



My Doll Iris



Deer Master





Time To Go Home



Sofkee Maker



Little Girl Bather



Florida's Food Chain



Discreet Bather



Bear Scare



Wild Orchid Proposal