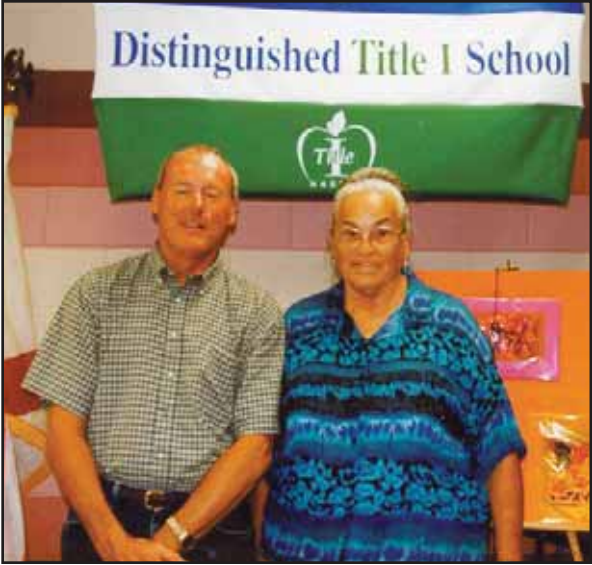




Agnes the dollmaker at the Florida Folk Festival, page 20.



NAJA visits Florida, See below.



Dr. Gaffney, Miss Winifred, Awards, page 22.



Spring Festival, page 8.



The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

\$1.00

www.seminoletribe.com

Volume XXI Number 8

June 16, 2000

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

NAJA 2000 Called To Order ■ Hosted By Seminole Tribe

By Dan McDonald
HOLLYWOOD — With alligators as a backdrop, Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie officially kicked off the 16th annual Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) convention during the opening ceremony held at the Tribe's Okalee Village June 14.
“You journalists really have the power,” Chairman Billie told the group in his opening remarks. “Someone once said that the pen is mightier than the sword, and it's true.
“I can say something, and the words are gone immediately. But, when you write it down, it lasts. It can be printed and read and with your words you can pick someone up or take that down. I think it's great that you are working to make the Native voice heard and I want to welcome you to our land.”
His remarks were well aimed, as the NAJA 2000 convention draws newspaper, magazine, television and radio journalists from across North and South America to share ideas, improve skills and to learn the latest technologies in the information business.
NAJA 2000 will be one of the largest conferences the group has held. Between 300 to 400 journalists are expected for the convention which runs through June 17 at the Marriott North. This year marks the first time NAJA has met in Florida.
“The media has the ability to impact the future,” Billy Cypress, Chairman of the Miccosukee Tribe of Florida Indians said in his welcoming remarks. “You can impact the ecology and environment, and that is the future.
“If it wasn't for the Everglades, which provided food, shelter and a barrier against the forces that tried to remove all Indians from Florida, we would all be in Oklahoma, or Arkansas, or out west. The Everglades saved us,
See NAJA, page 2

SOAR Releases New Chief Jim Billie CD

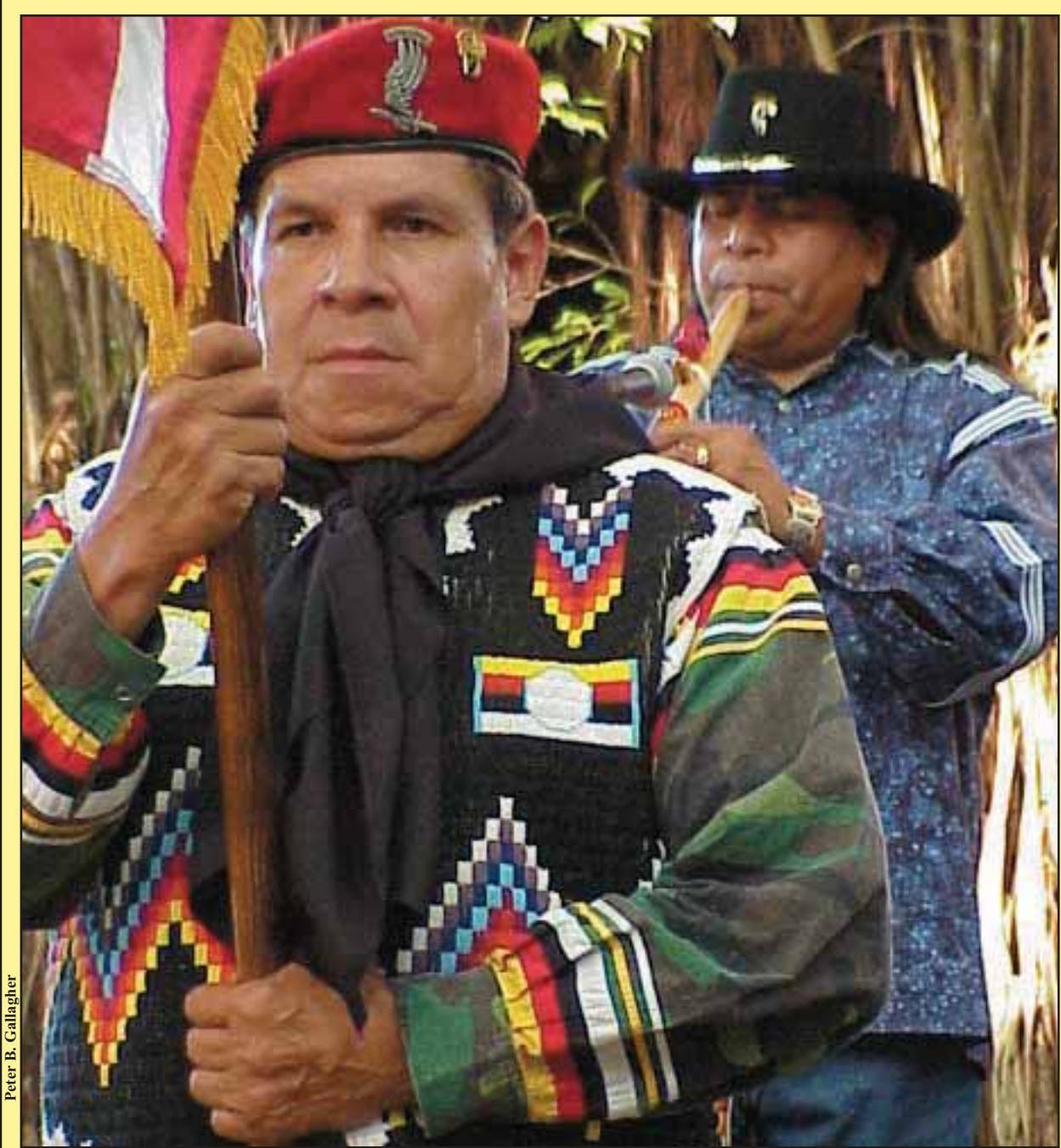


By Marilyn McEuen
FORT LAUDERDALE— The world of Chief Jim Billie stops at the campfire often. Though he is a big businessman with global interests and the executive leader of a busy and active Tribal government, he never strays too far from — and always returns to — the world which first gripped his senses as a young boy.
More than anything else, the fireside haunt of the storytellers and the wisdom of their powerful and colorful words, have shaped this man. Lessons learned in childhood have stayed with Jim Billie his entire life, and now, in a unique new release from Sound of America Records (SOAR), he shares this world on a spoken word CD titled *Seminole Fire*.
With fanfare and musical celebration, the CD will be officially released this weekend in Fort Lauderdale, along with evening concert appearances by the Chief and his band, at Alligator Alley Native Bar and Grill (9 p.m. Friday, June 16) and the Chocolate Moose (8 p.m. Saturday, June 17). It will be available worldwide -- distributed nationally at all Peaches Record stores and on the Seminole Tribal website www.seminoletribe.com.
“These legends are told as near as I can recall just as they were told to me,” says Billie, who recently completed a tour of Indian lands in the Southwest and Buffalo, N.Y. “I did not clean
See RECORD, page 13

New Hollywood Casino, Renovation For Tampa

■ Hard Rock Cafe/Hotel

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — In a monumental expansion of Seminole Gaming, June 7, the Seminole Tribal Council approved resolutions to take over and renovate the Tribe's Four Points Sheraton Hotel, upgrade the Tampa Seminole Gaming Palace and build a \$300 million hotel and gaming complex on the Hollywood Reservation's Candlelight Park property.
The famous Hard Rock Hotel and Café will provide the theme for the new projects on both Reservations. The new Hollywood casino will be the Tribe's sixth gaming facility statewide and third in Broward County. -- all managed by the Tribe, itself.
The Council transferred the Four Points Sheraton from Seminole Economic Development, Inc (SED) -- a separate Tribal property management entity -- to control by the Council, itself.
The hotel -- first ever built by an American Indian tribe -- had been slated for a \$2 million renovation -- required to keep the Sheraton franchise.
However, the Council voted to convert the hotel to the Hard Rock Seminole Hotel and Café -- at a cost of \$3.5-5 million -- in time for the 2001 Super Bowl, hosted at Tampa's Raymond James Stadium. Pending a Solicitor's opinion on the trust status of the land in question, the Council is considering the development of gaming, hotel, and conference center
See COUNCIL page 3



STANDING TALL: Comanche flautist Sonny Nevaquaya plays while Seminole Color Guardsman Steven Bowers holds the American flag at the opening ceremonies for NAJA 2000, June 14, at Okalee Village.

Copperhead Bites Gator John

By Vida Volkert
BIG CYPRESS — When Ed Woods first heard that Gator John Kenyon, the Safari herpetologist, had been bitten by a poisonous snake during a routine snake-handling demonstration at the Safari he went numb.
“My heart hit the floor,” said Woods, Operations Manager at the Seminole Tribe's Billie Swamp Safari park.
As Woods composed himself, his first reaction was to ask which one of the snakes had bitten the 33-year-old Coconut Creek man and Safari “star” Safari for the past three years.
BILLIE SWAMP SAFARI
“They said it was a southern copperhead snake,” said Woods.
A female copperhead -- the most dangerous gender.
Kenyon, who was released from Memorial Hospital West in Pembroke Pines on Saturday June 8, three days after he had been in an emergency helicopter flight to the facility, said the bite was not like a “normal bite.”
“She bit the hell out of me. I had to pull her out of my arm,” said Kenyon, as he recounted the incident. According to Kenyon, the Wednesday he got bit was not the snake's day.
“She was not in the mood for the routine and

did what she does naturally, which is bite,” he said.
Kenyon said he pulled the snake out of the holding box with a long hooked, metal tool used to control reptiles. Once it was out of the box, he grabbed the snake, suspending it for a little while over the hooked tool.
See SNAKEBITE, page 16



GATORS ARE HIS GAME: Copperhead John ain't his name.



Police Chief Tom Hernan at the canal crash site.

Car Discovered In Canal May Solve Mystery

By Charles Flowers
BIG CYPRESS — Clues that may soon unravel the year-long disappearance of Malcolm Tigertail, a 25-year-old Seminole, and his 21-year-old companion have been found in the L-28 Interceptor. The canal, running north-to-south across the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation, was previously famous for its peaceful bass fishing, occasionally interrupted by the crackle of automatic weapons, the clank of beer bottles, and the sometimes unheard splash of automobile into water.
On Sunday, June 5, a car, registered to Manuel Pizana, 21, of LaBelle, was dragged to the surface. It was first spotted the day before by Jamie McDaniel, on an aerial reconnaissance flight for Seminole Forestry.
From a helicopter window, McDaniel saw four wheels pointing up in the murky water about a mile north of Snake Road where the Interceptor meets it, northwest of Sadie's convenience store and mail drop.
The Seminole Police Department was soon on the job, and the tow truck from Max's Towing in Fort Lauderdale put a hook on the green 1999 Honda Civic and yanked it onto the bank.
The roof of the vehicle was crushed, the SPD reported, and this was confirmed by Moses Jumper,
See MISSING, page 14

MISSING

Malcolm Tigertail
25 YEARS OLD

MANUEL PIZANA
21 YEARS OLD

LAST SEEN IN A 1999 DARK GREEN HONDA CIVIC WITH LIMO TINTED WINDOWS. IF YOU HAVE SEEN THESE TWO MEN/VEHICLE PLEASE CALL THE SEMINOLE POLICE DEPARTMENT AT 941-983-2285. DATE LAST SEEN MAY 15, 1999.

Editorial

Power Of The Native Pen

***James E. Billie**
Che han tamo:
On behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, I would like to welcome the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) to the state of Florida. We Seminoles are honored by your presence and certainly appreciate the quality people who are members of NAJA visiting our country.

Now that we have crossed into the next century, it is you, the proud and straight Native media, which we must depend on to set the record strong regarding American Indians and our particular issues, whether they be political or cultural.

It is you who will let the rest of the world know about the real people in Indian Country and I know you will make sure they will be heard correctly.

It is also you who must be responsible with your great power, for with one stroke of your pen, you can give or take away, you can make a hero or an enemy, you can expose wrong and take advantage. It is up to me to give you the facts accurately and up to you to use this information responsibly.

It is up to you to learn and employ this powerful weapon we call the pen. Remember, once you write it down and it is published or broadcast, it is there forever.

It is you who will put us on the road to prosperity, fame or infamy. Respect for the Indian Country press has never been greater. You are a force that must be reckoned with in this electronic information age. You have chosen a noble path and truth is your searchlight.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida is proud to host your annual convention and we hope you will enjoy your stay with us. If you have the time, please visit with us and take some of our Seminole history and culture back with you so the people who read your words or watch and listen to your programs will understand us as well.

And I would like to invite you all to visit Jim Billie's haunts in the Big Cypress Swamp.

Sho baa bish.

— **James E. Billie** has been publisher of the *Seminole Tribune* and *Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida* since 1979.



wah-whoth luk-nee chin-tee

Leonard Peltier Denied Parole Again

By Amy Shaffer
LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) — Leonard Peltier, the American Indian serving two life sentences for the fatal shootings of two FBI agents, was denied parole after a hearing June 12.

His next parole hearing is in 2008, but officials must review the case every two years to determine whether a change in the sentence is warranted.

One of Peltier's attorneys, Carl Nadler, said at a news conference that the decision would be appealed.

On June 26, 1975, FBI agents Ronald A. Williams and Jack R. Coler pursued a robbery suspect into the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. A shootout erupted with activists from the American Indian Movement, and the agents were first wounded, then shot in the head.

Two suspects were acquitted and a third freed for lack of evidence. Peltier, after fleeing to Canada and being extradited to the United States, was convicted and sentenced to consecutive life terms in 1977, despite defense claims that evidence against him had been falsified.

Peltier, 55, has suffered from health problems in recent years, including lockjaw, borderline diabetes and a series of small strokes. He also is said to be nearly blind in one eye.

"He is being denied parole because he will not admit he shot the agents in the way the FBI says he did," said one of his attorneys, Jennifer Harbury.

"He is being forced to admit to a crime he did not commit."

Peltier, considered by many supporters to be a political prisoner, has drawn attention from domestic and international human rights activists.

Former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said releasing Peltier would be a step toward reconciliation between the government and American Indians.

Also supporting Peltier at the news conference were representatives of Amnesty International, the National Council of Churches and the Assembly of First Nations in Canada.

Persons interested in more information should contact The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, PO Box 583 Lawrence, KS 66044 (202-456-1111).

A Glimmer Of Hope

I usually try not to single out an individual or make an example of him or her, but in this case, I'm going to make an exception.

The article that appears in this issue (Page 4) about Reese Bert, who has recently completed an apprenticeship program, really touched my heart. I know first hand the challenges Reese has overcome to achieve his goals. I have watched the metamorphosis of this young man from the days when he struggled daily with who he was, and what he wanted to do with his life, to his present accomplishments in the business world. My heart is bursting with pride in this young man, and we can all be proud that he is one of our own.

Often, there are times when we sell our kids short. We feel like our children or young people will not listen. We feel that they won't hear us or pay attention. But guess what? They listen, they hear us, and they think about it. We are not Anglos and we do not react like Anglos. We might not show any emotion, but that doesn't mean we have no feelings. We have all been raised not to show emotion in public. (Although I have seen some temper tantrums in stores that voids out that whole concept; but those are the youngest generations. And how did they

learn that they get attention by throwing themselves on the floor and causing a scene? They see other (non-Indian) kids do it.

Whether we realize it or not, the time will soon be upon us when our children



Editor's Thoughts
By Virginia Mitchell

Most of us who have grown up on the reservation pretty much had similar upbringings, eventually trying to decipher between traditional and modern. Even with religion.

It was, "Are you a Christian or are you traditional?" It seemed like you couldn't be both. There were many who claimed to be traditional, but they were only traditional when it was convenient. If you were traditional, how could you make a living – if you did not build chickenes? What kind of work was there for the young people who still did not even know if they would be going to school on the reservation or to a public school? What good was an education back then?

Well, times have changed – and so have we. I can't think of anyone who is really 100 percent traditional anymore, unless it would be the elders who desperately cling to the old ways that have long since been discarded for the new ways of the modern world. Even our language is in jeopardy. There is an age group somewhere from the 80s to present, where the young parents of today can't teach the language to their children – because they don't know it. The ones who do know it and teach their children are finding that their children "speak it" – but they don't want to understand it."

Why is that? It's because they are ashamed of their language. Most of the children have friends off the reservation who hold the TV and video games as sacred. Many of the older teens have made the decision that they want nothing more to do with school. You can drive through the streets of the reservations – all of them – and there they are, the ones "hanging out." Look at their eyes – the windows to the soul. What do you see? Sometimes they are sad eyes, and sometimes they are just blank.

Reese was one of the lucky ones who was noticed by a caring person. A person who saw a glimmer of hope in his eyes, and saw that there was a potential for this young man to have a good life. He reached out and took that step to speak to Reese. He let him know that someone cared. He encouraged him not to give up his dreams – dreams that we all have somewhere in our hearts. He gave him the desire to set goals and identify priorities in his life. I wasn't there, and I can't tell you exactly what Mr. Fred Osceola said to Reese Bert that made him decide he wanted to live a good life and be somebody — probably only the two of them know. But whatever it was, Reese was listening. I imagine that Mr. Osceola had no idea at the time what ramifications his little chat would produce later in life for this young man.

will be the leaders of our Nation. Frankly, that scares me to death. I know I have been down this road before, but we really need to show them that we are here for them. It is much easier to stick them in the room with the "Gameboys" and Nintendo games – so we don't have to deal with them now (because we are so stressed out from the kind of day we have had.) Homework is another story.

Everyone psyches up and braces themselves for that time of the day or night, and some parents just find it easier to let their kid quit school, rather than deal with the constant battle each day when it comes time for these things. This is where the community needs to step in and help. I know that there are many of you out there that are successful in your lives. Would it really be so hard to talk to just one of our young people and let them know you are out there and that you care? Or that you have time – if they need to talk?

Are they hurting? Are they sad? Are they depressed? What do they want to be when they grow up? Do they know how important it is to go to school today? Do they ever want to be able to secure a responsible position in our Tribe? Don't they ever want to be the ones to make decisions about our future? Well, they can't do it without an education.

As it is, we are still experiencing hard times getting those top jobs within the Tribe – even if we do have a good education. I guess we have to prove ourselves to someone, but when the people are gone whom we now must prove ourselves to, what then? Will we even care by then? We need to let our kids know that we care now, and that we will care then, too!

We also need to stop passing the buck. We think that someone else should be the one to talk to our young people. What's wrong with you? I know I sound like a broken record, but, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' and if we all take that to heart and do our part, we just may be able to ensure the future of our Seminole Tribe as well as the future of our kids (your future leaders). And they're worth it!

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

Correction:

In the May 26 issue, Arica Buck's name was misspelled. We regret the error.

e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

Dear Chief Billie:
I have run across several individuals who are dark or Black as commonly called and have substantial Native roots, including myself. My Mother's paternal Grandmother registered as a Seminole — her name is Ida Birchs (misspelled as Burgess). Her control Number is NRFF-75-53A-26692, roll 1851, Degree full, census card number 588 and tribe: Seminole.

The question and problem is who, where and how do we get registered in a federally recognized tribe and are there any special provisions for us due to our unique situation? All but one of my great grandparents are Native and in the National Archives, and she is a French Muur from Martinique. Please help us. We are suffering because of our color, but our Native spirit is dominant. We are an entire Nation displaced.

Abdul Abdullah-Muhammad
mgmdc@erie.net

Dr. Patricia Wickman, Director Seminole Tribe of Florida Department of Anthropology & Genealogy replies:

This is in response to your request for information concerning the Seminole people. If your information is accurate, then you may be better served by contacting the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma, but not before you have done a great deal more research. The number that you have indicated is not an enrollment number, but you may have encountered, at least partially, a Dawes Commission Census Card number. Many individuals who gave information to the Dawes Commission were not granted citizenship, however.

If you visit the website, ancestry.com, promulgated by the National Archives and Records Administration, you will find works by Kent Carter on the activities of the Dawes Commission. They will be of great value to you in understanding the information you have thus far, and in finding out where to obtain further information.

Please realize also, however, that even ancestor(s) did obtain Seminole Nation roll numbers, they may have been enrolled as Seminole Freedmen, not as Seminoles by blood. Kent Carter's research will help you to understand this critical distinction.

Chief Billie:

I carefully read the *Seminole Tribune*. It is the means I have to try to keep abreast of what the Tribe is doing. I read and cut out and save the articles on Seminole War forts by Vida Volkert; her essays are well done, and are based on careful research.

The sites of Fort Brooke (Jan. 28, 2000 edition) and Fort Myers (April 18, 2000 edition) have been obliterated by the growth of the cities, Tampa and Fort Myers. The struggle goes on just now to preserve the site of Fort King (Aug. 20, 2000 edition) as the ground is on the market for development.

I enclose a brochure on the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation Inc. We have been able to preserve the site of Fort Izard, and are involved with the effort to save Fort King. The fate of the King site will be decided probably on May 16, when the Marion County Commission will determine whether or not to send some money to help with the purchase. (See article on page 5).

The Florida forts are as much a part of the Seminole past as they are of white past. That is why the articles on those forts are useful. I hope that Ms. Volkert will continue to be supported in preparing more essays. There were at least 200 Seminole War forts, so there remains abundant material to write about. With many of the forts, the general location is known, but not the exact spot on today's ground. Exact location has to be determined finally by archeological digs.

John K. Mahon,
Professor Emeritus of History
University of Florida

John K. Mahon is author of the authoritative, 'History of the Second

Seminole War.' He is on the Board of Directors and is Secretary of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation. For more information on that group, call (352) 583-2974.

Editor:

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank Virginia Mitchell for finally sending a freelance reporter to Brighton. There are so many events taking place out here, it is really appreciated for giving the reservation coverage.

The reporter that has been reporting for us — Mike James — is also in the Nursing Program at Indian River Community College. I have recently found out that he has been awarded The Outstanding Non Traditional Student Award for the entire state of Florida.

He is very humble and would not want this reported about. Many times in talking with him he has continuously thanked us, the Tribe for the opportunity given to him over the past few years. He repeats often that he would never have been able to do any of this if it weren't for Virginia.

I finally did talk to him to let him know I was doing this and his response was simply, "I owe a debt of gratitude to Virginia, Boogie, Michele, Rita, Jeanette, Wendy, Lisa, Rod, Jack Smith Jr., Louise, Benny, Valerie, Laquita, Big, Betty Mae, Lorene, Debbie, Norman, the entire Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, Alex, Marty, Billie, Willie, Mitchell, Miss Alice, David, again the entire Rodeo Association and all the elders who have opened their homes to me, all the students and all the Tribal members that opened their hearts to me. To all of those who I have ever had the privilege to talk to, thank you."

I just thought you should know.
Jo Leigh Johns
Youth Support Coordinator
Brighton

Tribal Ambassador Joe Dan Osceola, President Mitchell Cypress, and NAJA interim Executive Director Michael Burgess.

"We really want to take this opportunity to thank the Seminole Tribe and the Miccosukee Tribe for inviting us down to Florida," Burgess said. "This is the first time we've been to Florida, but I can tell you, it is a beautiful spot.

"But, we're here to share ideas and to encourage each other and to work together to improve the journalism for

Native American media. That's really what this convention is all about."

Comanche flautist Sonny Nevaquaya entertained the guests, as did guitarist and *Seminole Tribune* columnist Raitford Starke and the Lifers. Thomas Storm Jr., gave an alligator demonstration and Kim Royal and Jay Osceola from Billie Swamp Safari exhibited birds of prey and alligators.

Junior. Miss Seminole Mercedes Osceola, 16, acted as emcee for the opening ceremony.

NAJA

Continued from page 1

and now, you journalists can help save the Everglades. I want to welcome you to South Florida."

The opening ceremony, coordinated by Gloria Wilson, also featured a prayer by Rev. Dan Osceola and the presenting of the colors by Tribal veterans Steven Bowers and Paul Bowers, Sr. Welcoming comments were added from



Seminole Tribune

Publisher: James E. Billie
Director: Dr. Betty Mae Jumper
Editor: Virginia M. Mitchell
Special Projects: Peter B. Gallagher
Design/Layout: Melissa Sherman
Design/Layout Assistant: Vanessa Frank
Secretary: Valerie M. Frank
Reporters: Libby Blake, Elrod Bowers, Colin Kenny, Ernie Tiger
Business Manager: Dan McDonald
Contributors: Tommy Benn, Charles Flowers, Michael James, Bob Kippenberger (Photos), Brian Larney (Design), Mark Madrid, Sandi McClenithan, Marilyn McEuen, Rhonda Roff, Benny Secody, Raitford Starke, Sabrina Tuttle, Vida Volkert, Patsy West, Dr. Patricia R. Wickman

The Seminole Tribune

is a member of the Native American Journalists Association and the Associated Press. Letters to the Editor must be signed and may be edited for publication. Subscription rate is \$25 per year by mail. Make checks payable to *The Seminole Tribune*, 6300 Stirling Rd., Hollywood, FL 33024. Phone: (954) 967-3416. Fax: (954) 967-3482. Or subscribe on the Internet at www.seminoletribe.com
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Community News



YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN . . . Officer Thomas Dimeglio handcuffs Alicia to Penny.

Alicia Sanchez And Penny Fontana Locked-Up For Muscular Dystrophy

By Melissa Sherman
HOLLYWOOD — Kicking and screaming, Alicia Sanchez and Penny Fontana were dragged down the halls of the Hollywood Tribal Headquarters to a waiting squad car where they were driven to the slammer, June 1.

"They put up a great fight, despite their size," said unsuspecting Davie Police Officer Thomas Dimeglio, who served them with a subpoena. That's right, they were arrested. But Alicia, an Administrative Assistant for Foreign Affairs, wasn't arrested for drinking too many Diet Cokes and Penny, a Purchasing Department Clerk, wasn't nabbed for lewd and lascivious behavior. The Tribal employees were locked up as part of a fund raiser for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and they were held in "lock-up" until they could raise enough money to meet their bail. On the way to jail, officer Dimeglio left the girls in the running car while making another arrest. Alicia and Penny were plotting a "Thelma and Louise" incident to steal the cop car but, at the last minute, they changed their minds, figuring they were in enough trouble already. Once he returned they had the ride of their



Alicia "Heavy Hitter" Sanchez.

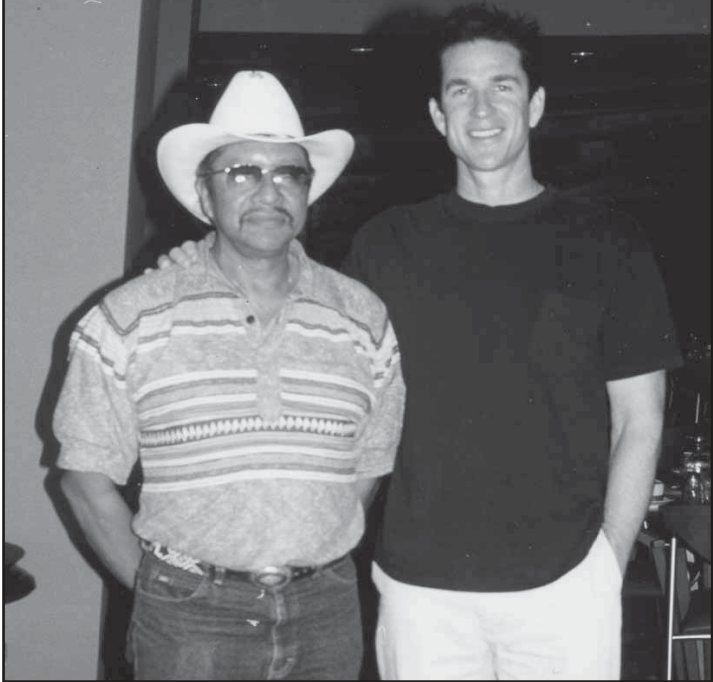


Penny "Jail-bird" Fontana.

lives on the way to the station. Officer Dimeglio put on the police car's lights and sirens and drove almost 100 m.p.h. As soon as Alicia and Penny arrived at the Cooper City Jailhouse they signed in and were issued a black and white prison outfit. Penny commented how comfortable the out-fits were, but the issuing officer replied, "You're in jail and it is not supposed be comfortable!" In their cellblocks the prisoners were assigned cell phones with very bad reception to call friends and family to meet their bail. Every time someone received a pledge for \$100 the rowdy prisoners would ring bells and cheer. Alicia was named the "Heavy Hitter" after receiving a donation of \$1,700 from Max Osceola. Together the good sports raised a total of \$2,150 to benefit research and services for adults and children with neuromuscular diseases. After working up an appetite, everyone was rewarded with delicious baked ziti, pizza, and garlic rolls. Penny said, "I can get used this jail food." Alicia and Penny would like to thank everyone who made donations. If you are interested making a tax deductible contribution to MDA please mail your check to P.O. Box 4711, Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33442-4711.

Mitchell Cypress Meets Matthew Modine

By Don Osceola
MICCOSUKEE — Seminole President Mitchell Cypress recently visited the Miccosukee Resort, recently, to have dinner, where he met movie actor, Matthew Modine. The actor and movie production people were staying at the resort while filming a movie, *In the Shadows*. Mitchell and the actor enjoyed sharing a chat together. Modine stated his grandparents were the Osage Tribe of Oklahoma. The actor told Mitchell, he really appreciates his Native American heritage. In this movie, his co-stars are James Caan and Cuba Gooding Jr. Modine is a veteran of over 30 movies. He has won Golden Globe and Emmy Awards. One of his big films was *Full Metal Jacket*. He played the part of Private Joker in this movie. For those interested in more information on Matthew Modine, go to his website, www.matthewmodine.com.



Mitchell Cypress meets Mathew Modine at dinner.

Tourism Promoted At Dallas Powwow

By Libby Blake
DALLAS, TX— Every year the Travel Industry Association of America (TIA) puts on their version of a Powwow. This year the event was held in Dallas and Florida Seminole Tourism was there. The TIA's Dallas Powwow is an international marketplace where only travel buyers with a proven ability to sell the United States as a travel destination are invited. It is the largest generator of travel in the states. Over 1,000 U. S. companies and 1,550 international buyers from over 70 nations transact some \$3 billion worth of business during the three-day event. There is also a unique opportunity for news coverage as more than 200 travel journalists from over 45 countries report from and about the Powwow and the destinations and products offered. Max Osceola, Council Representative, Lee Tiger, Director of Florida Seminole Tourism, Tom Gallaher, Promotions and Development

Director for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, and Lucy Evanicki, Marketing Director for Billie Swamp Safari attended the Pow Wow to promote the Tribally owned tourist destinations. TIA has gone global this year with a Web site, a new research division, an international advertising campaign, and overseas offices in the U. K., Brazil, and Japan. The large number of Asian buyers who scheduled appointments with Florida Seminole Tourism evidenced this push by TIA.

"We're seeing a lot of interest from the Asia market. Typically they (Asians) come into California and New York although they have been coming to Atlanta more in the last 10 years. Now they're starting to trickle down to Florida, so there's the potential for a new market. We already have some plans in the works for brochures written in Japanese," stated Tiger.



Lee Tiger greets Italian tour operators Antonio Ranucci and Sinia Fernandez from Ranureps International Inc.






Housing Manager Juan Menendez (l) and contractor Don Michael (r) present certificate to Reese Bert.

Reese Bert Completes Apprenticeship

By B. Secody
BRIGHTON — Reese Bert was presented with his certificate of completion from the Tri-County Plumbing, Heating and Air Conditioning Company's Apprenticeship Program, where he earned his diploma for completion of the Air Conditioning Apprenticeship Program, May 25. For Reese, married with four children and working a full-time job, this was no easy task. He had to put in 144 hours of classroom training and the mandatory 2,000 hours of on the job training required to complete this program. According to Robert Carson, who has run the apprenticeship program for the past 18 years, "a young man must be very committed to his career choice in order to succeed in this program." The program is a three-year commitment, and has not come easily to Reese, who completed the program in two years. He has worked long and diligently towards his goals, and had set his priorities after overcoming a myriad of obstacles that would have derailed many of us. Earlier in his life, Reese lost interest in school and had no desire to finish. That changed when he met and befriended Fred Osceola, also of the Brighton Reservation. Reese remembers all too well: "When I was out of school, he [Fred] encouraged me to go back," Reese said. "He made me feel like I could do anything I set my mind to if I had an education. If he reads this article about

me, I want him to know how I appreciate that encouragement. What he said really made a difference in how I felt about myself." Reese returned to school, graduating from high school in 1986, and enrolling in Haskell Indian College in Lawrence, Kan., where he earned an A.S. Degree in Business Administration in 1989. Even with his degree, Reese had trouble getting a full-time job and did odd jobs until he started working with the Seminole Tribe Housing Authority. After three failed attempts at passing his certification, he went on to work as a security guard at the Bingo Hall. Eventually he met Mondo Tiger, owner of Blue Top Construction, who offered him a job with his company. Reese developed a good rapport with Mondo and learned the basics of air conditioning, which he enjoyed. "Mondo believed in me, and really helped me along in the construction and air conditioning field," Reese says. Two years ago, one of his supervisors, Don Michael, a contractor for the Housing Authority, spoke with Reese about entering the apprenticeship program. Michael had previously assisted two other employees who had graduated the year before. Michael recalls when he administered a pre-administration test to Reese to determine his level of skill, Reese was able to enter the program as a second year student. Reese already had a full plate, with a wife and children.

However, he made the decision to pursue this endeavor. It wasn't an easy road, but he overcame the many challenges along the way. "Reese is one of the hardest working and enthusiastic guys I know," said Michael. "I have been truly blessed with the crew of guys I have working with me. I love my job, and I am so proud of these guys!" Indeed he is, as he and Housing Authority Construction Manager Juan Menendez proudly watched as Reese was called to the front of the room to accept his certificate and plaque for his success. When Menendez was asked how he was going to get along without Reese working full-time for the Housing Authority, he quipped, "Bite your tongue!" He also admits that he too, wants the best for Reese. "He has been a credit to the company and an inspiration to other young people who are starting out on their path to a better life. I know he will do well, wherever his work takes him." Menendez later presented Reese with a special award on behalf of the Seminole Tribe for his achievements. Reese plans to continue his employment with Blue Top Construction. However, he will now have his own AC shop, which will be located on Big Cypress where most of his work will be done in local homes rather than tribal property such as rentals and priority jobs.



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Fort Armistead: Base Served As Major Gateway In Battle Of Indian Removal

During the Seminole Wars (1817-1858), the United States Army built forts across the peninsula of Florida. In this ongoing Seminole Tribune exclusive series, correspondent Vida Volkert 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 Vida Volkert
SARASOTA — It was Thursday, Oct. 1, 1840. A delegation of Seminole Indian leaders recently established at the Indian reservation in Arkansas had been persuaded by the U.S. government to return to Florida.

The Indian leaders, however, were returning on a mission. Upon their arrival, they were to go into Indian camps throughout southern Florida, organize meetings and persuade the remaining holdouts to emigrate with them to Arkansas.

The delegation sailed down the Arkansas River to Little Rock by ferry, and from there traveled to New Orleans by steamboat. At New Orleans, the delegation was given money to buy new clothes, shoes, tobacco, knives, tin cups, soap, stationary, shirts, feathers and other items.

According to Janet Snyder Matthews, director of the Division of Historical Resources of the State of Florida, these items were bought for the Arkansas Indians with the purpose of “impressing their Florida relatives.”

From New Orleans, the delegation sailed to Tampa Bay and from Tampa to various posts, including Fort Armistead, which had been established on Sarasota Bay.

Fort Armistead, according to Matthews’s historical report presented with the *Archaeological and Historical Investigation at Indian Beach*, was to be the Army’s southernmost Gulf Coast post.

The fort was “an important contact point from which to negotiate with wary Seminole leaders located along inland waterways and southern swamp regions during wartime,” Matthews wrote.

“Under direction of the officers of the 1st Infantry, military detachments were to go from Fort Armistead by Gulf waters or overland, to entice chiefs to meet at the fort with the Commanding General, Walker Keith Armistead.”

Armistead had succeeded Gen. Zachary

Taylor as commander of the Army of Florida on May 5, 1840. Although records of Armistead’s birth are not clear, it is presumed the native Virginian was born sometime in 1785.

Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Florida, John K. Mahon, said Armistead, who graduated from West Point second in his class in 1803, served on the Niagara front during the War of 1812.

“Armistead had a decent military career,” Mahon said. “He is the only West Point commander of Florida. And he not only graduated from West Point, but did it at the top of his class.”

Mahon said Armistead became chief engineer with the grade of colonel. He was later promoted to brigadier general, assigned the command of the Third Artillery Regiment and later transferred to Florida where he served under Gen. Thomas Jesup.

“Jesup used him as his second in command,” said Mahon.

As commander of Florida, Armistead appointed Major Greenleaf Dearborn, a native of Massachusetts, commanding officer of the southern division headquarters at Sarasota Bay in November 1840. Dearborn, who had started his military career with the War of 1812, was assigned to establish a post at a ‘fishing rancho’ in Sarasota Bay.

Ann Shank, Historical Librarian for the Sarasota County Historical Resources, says the fishing rancho where Fort Armistead was built was established as a Spanish fishing camp.

“According to historical records, we believe Fort Armistead was established in the Sarasota rancho,” Shank said. “The Sarasota rancho was a fishing camp owned by a Cuban fisherman named Manuel Olivella, who had been the clerk of the Hillsborough County Court.

Shank said the site of the rancho is currently within the County of Sarasota, but since Sarasota did not get incorporated until 1921, in 1840 the area was still part of Hillsborough County. According to Shank, upon arrival to the Sarasota area, Major Dearborn’s orders included scouting the southern Gulf coastal areas and mapping the unknown wilderness region.

Dearborn traveled with his troops from Fort Brooke, in what is now Tampa, arriving at the site of the fishing rancho in November 1840.

“They established the post on Nov. 13, 1840 and named it after the Florida commander Brevet Brigadier General Walker K. Armistead,” said Shank.

Since the fort did not last long, Shank says the Army did not keep many records on its dimen-

sions and structure.

“There does not seem to be anything that gives accurate measurements of how the fort was built,” said Shank. “All we have is a 19th century watercolor illustration entitled ‘Encampment of the First Infantry at Sarasota Bay, Florida, 1841.’

“As far as the archeological evidence goes, no main stockade was ever built, but it is suggested that a hospital was erected at this post.”



This 1841 watercolor by Seth Eastman shows some of the tents that made up the compound of Fort Armistead before illness forced its closure.

The Archaeological and Historical Conservancy commissioned an archaeological excavation at the site in June 1989. The dig uncovered no structural remains of the fort or rancho. The archaeological report states “artifactual clues were far more common than structural ones...”

Robert S. Carr, Director of the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy, said

most of the historic period artifacts found in the area comprised of “military buttons, kaolin pipe stems, musket balls and glass bottle necks from 1840.”

In correspondence to Gen. Armistead, Major Dearborn described the ground, on which his men had encamped and were to build Fort Armistead, as “thickly overgrown” with palmettos and bushes. He wrote that they had much clearing to do and reported

that if horses were to be brought, they would be forced to swim several creeks to follow the trail.

Dearborn also mentioned that they had no success in locating any Indian village but he had learned that a trail led from the post to Peas Creek (today’s Peace River) where Indians were reported to be living. Upon establishment, Dearborn also wrote that a guardhouse, a blockhouse and a bake-house were soon to be completed at the post.

Months later, Dr. Joseph J.B. Wright, the medical officer of the post between February and May 1841, would write some details about the parameters of Fort Armistead. Dr. Wright’s report would later serve the archaeologists as they tried to localize the actual fort’s site.

“The scite [sic] of the encampment is elevated some ten feet above the level of the sea, at high tide several miles, above and below. The geological features, a mixture of sand, and debris of the country has been explored, there obtains an alteration of low marshy ground and pine barrens, the surface of the latter being but slightly elevated.”

Shank says Fort Armistead was located a mile and a half north of present Sarasota downtown, just north of a stream – Whitaker Bayou — named after Sarasota Bay’s first white settler.

According to Janet Snyder Matthews, who contributed to the historical report used by the Conservancy, prior to Dearborn’s arrival to the fishing rancho, the area had already been a significant site.

In her report, Matthews suggested that the fishing rancho operation had been preceded by other occupations. She suggested that a Cuban operator of a trading post named Antonio Pacheco had occupied the area prior to Olivella. One of Antonio Pacheco’s slaves was a black named Luis.

In her book *Edge of the Wilderness, A Settlement History of Manatee River and Sarasota Bay*, Matthews wrote that Luis was a carpenter who had been taught to read and write by the daughter of planter Francis Phillip Fatio. She

also wrote that the white men appreciated Luis because he read and wrote four languages. In addition, he also spoke the Seminole language.

However Luis’ importance in the history of Florida lays on the fact that he was one of the survivors of the Dade Battle, Dec. 28, 1835. Even though Luis was later “falsely accused of betraying Dade’s command.”

The Seminoles defeated a detachment of 108

probably caught by surprise. I would call it an ambush not a massacre.”

That day of Dec. 28, 1835, Luis was serving as a guide to Dade’s men, who were marching from Fort Brooke to Fort King. Luis later reported that when the Indians struck, the first to fall was Major Dade, who had been shot by Micanopy.

“I look off and saw the Indians rise up like a string of pepper in a break of light...they had on only breach cloths and moccasins. Their bodies were painted red, and when they fired, it looked like lightning had flashed along the whole length of the line,” reported Luis years later.

Because Luis returned to the white settlement at Fort Brooke 15 months after Dade’s Battle, Jesup always believed him to be a traitor to the whites and an ally to the Indians.

“The evidence was almost conclusive that he had been in constant communication with the Indians from the time the command marched from Tampa Bay to that of its defeat,” wrote Jesup.

Luis was later put in irons and deported with Seminoles and Spanish-Indians from Florida to Arkansas. Pacheco placed a claim for his slave who had been lent to the Army, but the government ignored the Cuban fishermen’s request.

Matthews wrote, “Congress eventually declined to compensate the Pachecos for the loss of their slave, Luis.” Indeed, Congress was not very sympathetic with the Spanish fishermen in Florida, nor their properties or workers.

Before Dearborn and his troops arrived at the Sarasota rancho in 1840, much controversy had already been going on between the United States Government and the Spanish fishermen.

Matthews reported the troops’ journey from Fort Brooke to the Sarasota rancho as “frustrating and lengthy. No one knew the way. There was no government navigational chart of the area, and the Spanish fisherman refused to help,” wrote Matthews.

Such was the frustration that Major Dearborn had to complain to his superiors:

“Not one of the Spaniards could even pilot the Steam Boat into the Manatees or this Harbour, nor can they show me the way from here, there,” wrote Dearborn to the adjutant general.

Robert Carr says many of the Cuban fishermen established on the West Coast of Florida did not want to assist the Army because their ancestors had been trading and fishing with the Indians as early as 1600.

“When the Americans came to Florida they

See FORT, page 6

Fort King Site Preserved

By Dan McDonald

OCALA — In a move that will preserve one of the most historic sites in the epic saga of Seminole history, the Marion County Commission voted 4-1, May 16, to spend \$260,000 towards the purchase of the Fort King site.

By pledging the money from the Pennies for Parks program, Marion County will add to a \$400,000 grant from the state of Florida for the total purchase price of \$660,000 for the 24 acre parcel that was site of one of the key forts during the Second Seminole War.

“This is a great event for everyone,” a relieved Billy Cypress, Executive Director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, said. “If the county hadn’t voted to spend the money, the property may well have been sold and developed. It would have been lost forever like so many other historic sites in Florida.

“Now, it can be preserved. It’s an important historical site. But, not only is it important for the Seminole Tribe, it’s important for white history as well. Frequently, the Seminole Tribe finds itself at odds with other parties when we argue to save our heritage.

“But, this was a case where both sides were in agreement. Everyone benefits by saving this site. It’s a great event.”

Cypress, who is also on the board of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, a group that works to preserve historical sites and artifacts related to the Seminole Wars, testified before the Commission. He was joined at the meeting by Jerry Mahoney, Principal Chief of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

“Obviously we’re all very pleased that this site will be saved,” Mahoney added. “It gives a view of the past that should be saved for the future. I think it’s important for a lot of reasons, but mainly because it played such a key role in the history of our people.

“Most people, when they think of Seminoles, think of the Seminole Tribe of Florida. They don’t know that most of the Seminoles were removed from Florida and sent to Oklahoma, where we have the Seminole Nation.

“I hope that by saving this site, and using it for education purposes, more people will become familiar with all of the Seminoles. I hope this project, and others like it, will help spread the news. It’s a great day for everyone.”

Fort King, constructed in 1827, was featured in the Aug. 20, 1999 edition of the *Seminole Tribune*’s series on forts built in Florida during the Seminole Wars. It was one of the most important military installation in the Second Seminole War (1835 – 1842), and played host to many key events leading up to that conflict, including:

*Osceola is reported to have listened to Indian Agent Wiley S. Thompson try to persuade Indian leaders to sign a treaty of removal. After listening for some time to details of the treaty, Osceola stood up and walked to the table.

Drawing a knife, he plunged the blade through the treaty, declaring, ‘This is the only way I’ll sign that treaty.’ Some historians believe this story is a romantic folk legend. But, they all agree Osceola was taken prisoner and held in Fort King in 1835. The famed war leader was held in

an 8-foot-by-10-foot windowless building for 12 days, before being released.

“It was outside the gates of Fort King that Osceola and a small band of warriors attacked and killed Thompson, Lt. Constantine Smith and three civilians on Dec. 28, 1835.

“On that same day, another band of warriors led by Micanopy, Jumper and Alligator, ambushed 111 soldiers under the command of Major Francis Dade. All but one of the military men were killed in what is now called the Dade Massacre. The soldiers were on their way from Fort Brooke in Tampa to help fortify Fort King.

*After the Army abandoned the fort in 1843, it served as the site of all local Ocala government offices, and later as the area’s first post office.

“We rejoiced when the commission voted to save this site,” said John Mahon, Professor Emeritus of the University of Florida and one of the leading experts on Seminole history.

“For the first time in 155 years, the site returned to the people. We hope they would make an educational site out of it,” said Mahon, who is also the secretary for the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation and author of *The Second Seminole War*.

Mahon said historians and supporters had been urging the purchase of the site for several years, but the price faced opposition from different sides. In the 1950s Wayne McCall and his wife Catherine moved from New York to Florida, purchasing the site of the fort. Wayne McCall was a dentist and a State Representative who died some years ago. His widow, Catherine is selling the property.

Mahon added that throughout the years, the McCall family had done well at protecting the site. “The property is quiet unspoiled; they kept it well. I think they [the McCalls] were very conscious about the importance of the site,” said Mahon.

Mahon said before the McCalls owned the property, the area was farmed by man named Johnson. He added the first archaeological dig was done in 1998, and the exact location of the oak-log fort was established in 1999.

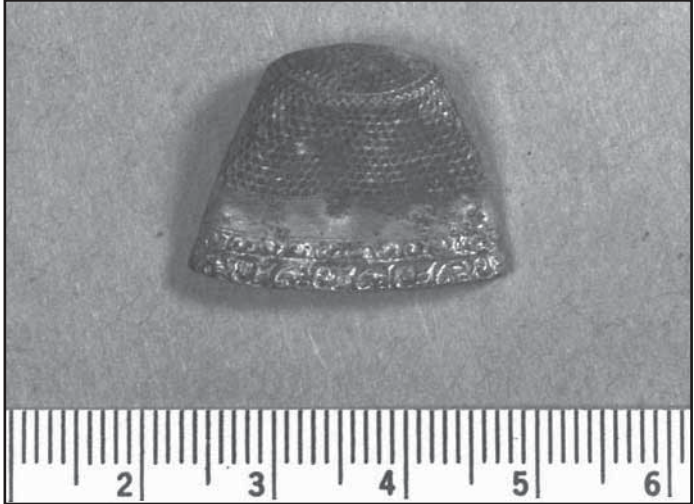
David Pritchard, Director of Recreational Parks for the City of Ocala, said the city has been eyeing the property for ten years, and that the next step would be a “planning process.”

“No one has made any comments as how the property is going to be managed,” said Pritchard. “There have been some ideas but nothing specific.”

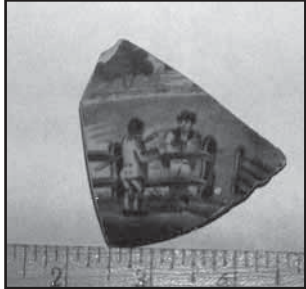
While the planning process continues, Billy Cypress has some ideas about what he hopes happens to the site, which is located on Fort King Street in east Ocala.

“I would like to see a replica of the fort built, or at the very least an interpretive center where people would be able to get a feel for what this fort was like in the old days,” Cypress said. “But, the important thing is to save it for the future. Far too much of the Seminole culture and history has been destroyed.

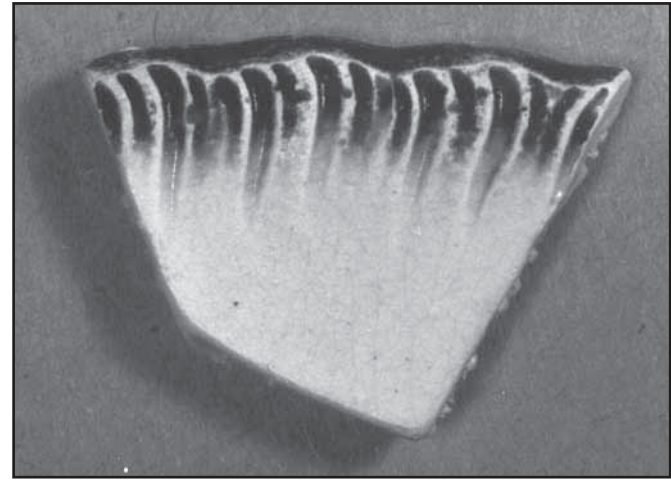
“Whatever happens here, the site will be saved. I’m glad to be a part of it.”



This thimble was recovered during archaeological dig at site.



Shard shows early scene.



Pearlware shard comes from military plate found at site.

Fort

Continued from page 5

expected these 300 years of tradition to stop. Just in general, the American government disliked the Spanish because they seemed suspicious and because they continued to trade with the Indians.”

Indeed the Spanish fishermen had been so involved with the Indians that most of them spoke the Native American language and some of them even had Indian wives and half-blooded Indian children.

For his part Gen. Jesup believed that arms and ammunition were being smuggled to the Seminole Indians from Cuba through the rancho traffic.

Those rumors were strongly supported by Richard Fitzpatrick, the president of the legislative council of Florida, who two weeks after the Dade Massacre, had written to the Governor of Florida that a Spanish ship had landed guns and ammunition near a Charlotte Harbor fishery.

In Fitzpatrick’s view, the Cuban fishermen were supporting the Indian cause out of fear of losing Indian labor at the fisheries through Indian removal.

“I think it was more than looting labor,” says Carr. “I think it was more about being connected culturally.”

Janet Snyder Matthews wrote that Jesup believed “his campaign of 1836-1837 would have been successful and the war over had he removed some of the fisheries rancho people in the fall of 1836.”

Finally, as a result of the rumors and mistrust, the Army sized one of the fisheries in the spring of 1838. Jesup’s troops arrived to the rancho when the men were out and seizing “all the women and children of Indian blood” sent them to New Orleans. The slave Luis was among the group.

Matthews wrote some husbands desperately petitioned their women and children, while others petitioned the Secretary of War, Joel Poinsett.

In their petition, the desperate men stated that they were located in the Peninsula of Florida as seamen and fishermen long before the United States acquired the territory in 1821.

They stated “it had been a long established custom recognized by the Spanish Government at Havana as legal to intermarry with the Indian women of the country.”

“Many of the children offspring of these marriages were baptized and educated there and recognized as legitimate...” they wrote.

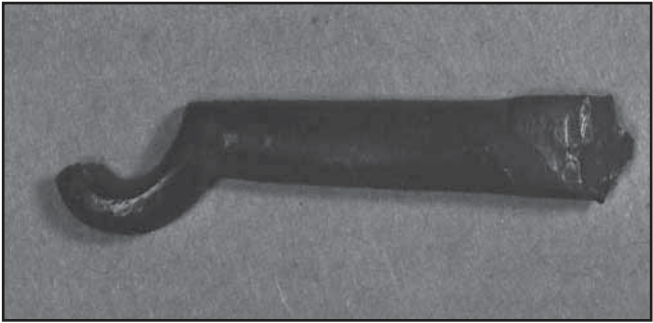
The petitioners furthered their claim by stating they had always been of assistance to the United States Government, serving as guides and interpreters when the troops came to scout the Everglades. They claimed justice, but justice did not arrive for the fishermen.

Instead, Jesup supported his removal orders stating that some of the women the Army had removed were the wives or properties of the chiefs who had already been deported to Arkansas. Jesup defended his removal policy stating that the chiefs, as apparently was the case of Chief Holat Emathla, requested that their wives be taken with them to Arkansas.

This was the atmosphere in Florida prior to the Indian delegation’s arrival from Arkansas that summer of 1840. As Fort Armistead got established, some of the Indian delegates rode from Tampa Bay to the new established Sarasota fort. Holatoochee, Crazy Fish and Nacose Yahola were among them.

According to Mahon, Holatoochee was the brother or nephew of the Seminole Chief Micanopy.

“[Holatoochee] was around thirty years old, five feet ten, and well built. Observers ascribed to him a thoughtful, melancholy look coupled with good judgment and integrity,” wrote Mahon in his *History of the Second Seminole War*.



Brass fragment came from an 1840s military weapon.

On Nov. 26, 1840 Crazy Fish and two other delegates set out from Fort Armistead for Indian country. Within a week, Crazy Fish returned to the post with two Seminoles who were willing to emigrate.

According to Crazy Fish’s accounts, he had convinced the old Indian Chief Hospetarke to emigrate with his band. But Hospetarke, who was about eighty-five years old, was too frail to ride to the main military port of embarkation in Tampa.

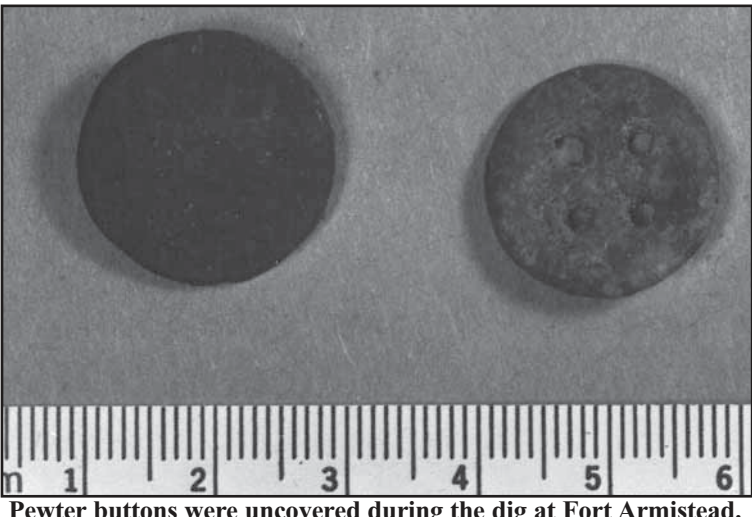
Crazy Fish informed the soldiers that Hospetarke, however, had agreed to ride to Fort Armistead.

During these days of negotiation, Major Dearborn and Holatoochee held several meetings at Fort Armistead. During one of those meetings, Dearborn asked the Indian about his “honest opinion in relation to life in the western reservation.” In correspondence with the assistant adjutant at Tampa, Dearborn wrote about this meeting with Holatoochee.

“...[Holatoochee] said that at first, as was usual with people leaving their native country, they were a little discontented, but were now pretty well satisfied. I then asked him how they liked the winters?”

“He said they were very cold, much snow, and they could not live as here, with few clothes, and that was unpleasant.

“I feel assured he put the best side out, but thought when the subject was mentioned, he looked



Pewter buttons were uncovered during the dig at Fort Armistead.

very unhappy — and I have deemed it my duty to mention this contented there — and if they are not I fear they cannot disguise their feelings to their friends [even] if they wish it.”

Despite Holatoochee’s declarations, removal policies continued with satisfactory results for the Military planners.

Robert Carr said this removal policy worked mainly because the government used psychological and economical strategies to persuade the Indians.

“They [the government] offered them [the Indians] cash and bonuses to instigate their removal,” said Carr. “The answer to the Indians’ choice to accept the conditions of removal is in the human psyche.

“The Indians had children and family and many of them were tired of fighting and running away. Some of them would rather accept removal than take the burden. I can’t imagine life in Arkansas being better than life here in Florida — the weather is different. It is colder, but the easiest choice of survival was that of removal,” said Carr.

Gen. Armistead promised every Chief who surrendered between \$2,000 to \$5,000; and to the warriors or “the common men” \$30 and a rifle.

By January 1841, 30 Indian men, women and children who had been persuaded by Holatoochee, were on their way to Fort Armistead. By March, nearly 40 Indians, including Chief Hospetarke’s people had arrived to Fort Armistead. Even Chief Billy Bowlegs, whose Indian name was Holata Micco, arrived to Fort Armistead to discuss removal sometime in late March 1841. Bowlegs met with Lt. Col. William Davenport, who had taken command of Fort Armistead on Dec. 16, 1840. Major Dearborn had been sent to command the troops at Fort Starke, an adjacent post.

About the meeting with Bowlegs, Davenport wrote to headquarters on April 1, 1841:

“Billy Bowlegs left here this morning well fitted out for the Big Cypress: he appears intent upon returning as soon as possible with his people, but would make no promises as to the time — I have supposed, with tolerable faith upon his part, it will take him no less than three weeks to assemble his Indians and return to his post...”

Another important Indian leader who arrived to Fort Armistead in 1841 was Chief Coacoochee. Coacoochee was famous for the 1837’s intrepid escape from Fort Marion’s dungeon and because he and Abiaka — known to the whites as Sam Jones — had skillfully led about 400 warriors against Col. Zachary Taylor’s 1,000 troops in the Battle of Lake Okeechobee on Dec. 26, 1837. Coacoochee, as well, agreed to bring his people to Fort Armistead.

But while the plan of removal was working fine for the government at the Sarasota post, the troops started suffering terrible losses. The men were falling victim to innumerable diseases, including a yellow fever epidemic that followed bouts of acute diarrhea and typhoid fever. The first two men died in February 1841.

“Six more First Infantrymen died during April, including Company E musi-

cian James McCullen,” wrote Janet Snyder Matthews. “On May 4, there were a dozen new cases...the Second Dragons at Fort Armistead were reduced by sickness from 137 to seventy-one able men. A *National Intelligencer* series noted that of 514 men, over half were sick — 159 were present sick, 103 were absent sick. The regiment was “entirely unfit for service,”” wrote Matthews.

The post was hurriedly abandoned on May 5, 1841 and the troops moved to Fort Brooke in Tampa.

Dr. Joseph J.B. Wright blamed the diseases to the water the men were drinking. According to his accounts, some of the men established at the post had preferred to drink water from a small stream, which emptied at the northern extremity of the encampment, a drain from the marshes in the rear of the encampment.

Despite this fatal outcome, the post, which according to Ann Shank was never reoccupied, served the government’s purpose. About 100 Seminoles, including Chief Coacoochee had been taken out of Florida through Fort Armistead. Gen. Armistead sought relief from command in May 1841. Col. William Jenkins Worth replaced him ending the Second Seminole War in 1842.

Contrary to many of his contemporaries, Gen. Walker Keith Armistead did not serve during the Civil War (1861- 1865). Mahon said Armistead died



Broken bottle necks testify that the military did occupy the site.

in 1845, a few years after the Seminole War ended. The cause of his death is unknown.

By the end of the Second Seminole War, about 4,000 Seminoles had been removed from the peninsula although a few hundreds remained scattered in bands. According to historian Brent Richards Weisman, the author of *Unconquered People*, out of those 4,000 Indians, 700 were removed during Armistead’s command. These 700 Indians, included blacks Seminoles.

“By April 1842 only [an estimated] three hundred Seminoles remained [in Florida]. Over the seven years of the war, 4,420 Seminoles had been captured and deported to Indian Territory,” wrote Weisman.

Today, the site of Fort Armistead is owned by the private sector.

“It [the site] is in the backyard of all these homes in a residential area,” said Carr. “Fort Armistead is important in the history of Sarasota and Florida because it was the last experience of many of the native people,” said Carr. “The site needs to be memorialized.”

For more information on Fort Armistead contact the Archaeological and Historical Conservancy Inc., at (305) 325 – 0789.

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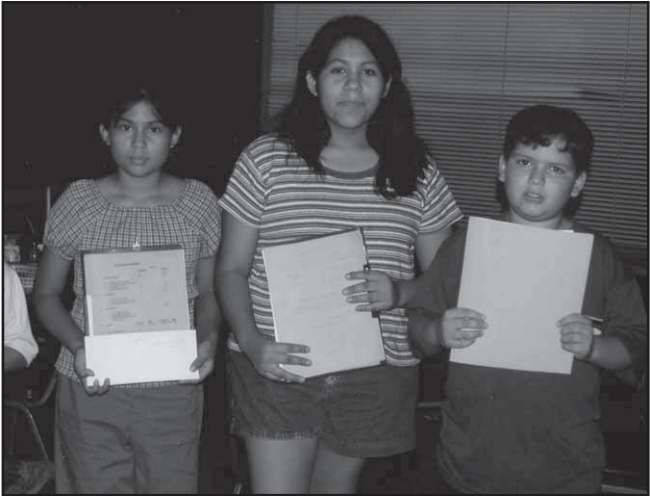
4-H Finishes Record Year

By Tommy Benn
OKEECHOBEE — The last of the Seminole Indian 4-H awards banquets was



Adrian Baker and Erin Willie

held at the Lakeport Lodge recently, completing another successful year.



Erin Williw, Alyssa Willie, and Kerwin Miller.

Awards have been handed out as follow:
Merit awards to the swine club: Grand Champion Swine, Katrina Bettelyoun; Reserve Champion Swine, Sierra Simmons. Best Herdsman, Kerwin Miller. Sonny Billie's swine had the best weight gain. Senior Showmanship, Andrew Bowers; Junior Showmanship, Keyah Osceola.
Steer Club Members took 19 steers into the show ring, although a few did not make weigh-in or were unmanageable in

the ring. The 4-H goal for 2000-2001 is that every steer makes it to the show and sale ring. Awards were:

Grand Champion, Alyssa Willie. Reserve Grand Champion, Erin Willie. Adrian Baker earned Best Herdsman, Most Weight Gain and Senior Showmanship honors.

Junior Showmanship, Justin Aldridge. Erin Willie received fitting and grooming merit awards.

Record Book, 1st place, Stephen Billie; 2nd place Nelson Osceola; 3rd place Brenda Young. Tampa's first place, Joseph Santiago; Second place, Jamie Henry; Third place Sierra Simmons. Immokalee Reservation, Junior Division, 1st place, Karen Cypress; 2nd, Curtis Motlow; 3rd

Mark Arriaga.

Senior Division, 1st place, Homer Villarea; 2nd, Kim Alvavado. Record Book, 1st. Klanessa Osceola; 2nd, Wilson Bowers; 3rd, Bonnie Billie.

Brighton, 1st, Lizina Bowers; 2nd, Samantha Jimmie; 3rd Andrew Bowers. Junior Division, 1st, Erin Willie; 2nd, Alyssa Willie; 3rd, Kerwin Miller. Honorable mention, Seth Randolph.

Most Outstanding 4-H Member Outstanding: Immokalee, Homer Villareal, swine club. Brighton, Samantha Jimmie, steer club, and Kerwin Miller from the swine club. Hollywood, Keifer Bert, swine



Seth Randolph and Alex Johns.

club. Tampa, Joshua Smith, swine club. Big Cypress, Sonny Billie, who also attended every meeting.

Picking up eight year, 4-H Completion pins were Holly Johns and Andrew Bowers. And for being seventh year leaders, Andy and Kaye Bowers.

"With the reservations being so widely spread apart much of the success of the program is due to the participation of the 4-H leaders and volunteers from each reservation," said Polly Hayes, director of the 4-H program.

"Really, without their help and support we could never realize the achievements we do."

Hayes also extended thanks to Chris Marrero, Theresa and Kaye Bowers, Steve Young and Kenny Descheene, Phillip Smith, Tina Smith, Benny Hernandez, Karen Simone, Mable Jim, Billy Joe Johns, Alex Johns and Carl Baxley.

This year, Cattle Owner Premiums went to two Brighton Cattle operators. The Grand Champion Steer came from the herd of Wonder Johns and the Reserve Champion was picked out of the herd of Howard Micco. Stanlo Johns presented the awards to the two cattle owners.

Irma Platt Rides For Good Cause

By B. Secody

LABELLE — Irma Platt, an employee of the Big Cypress Cattle and Range Program participated in the 10th Annual Ride-a-thon Fundraiser sponsored by Special Equestrian: Horses and Handicapped Association on May 20.

The event was held in Labelle at Bob and Linda Sodrel's ranch. Irma rode on behalf of the Seminole Tribe of Florida: Big Cypress Cattle and Range Program.

The equestrian event raises funds for those who are involved in the Special Equestrian program. The program, which was started nearly 12 years ago by the Kiwanis Club, caters to handicapped individuals who show an interest in horses, their care and grooming and have the desire to ride.

Many of the riders benefit from weekly sessions held on Wednesday and Saturday through the exercise-through-games events, aptly named "riding therapy." Riders perform before enthused crowds — usually consisting of family, friends and well wishers. The riders are assisted up on their horses, and games are played.

One such event is a beanbag game where the riders are lined up and go through a maze of poles (similar to pole bending), and drop the beanbag at the last pole. Other exercises require riders to reach and stretch to various positions to ensure a good physical workout. Basketball hoops are set up for such games, as well as trotting competition.

Funding is always needed to keep the program in operation, thus the yearly fundraising event is held. Each rider must have a sponsor, who pays \$40 for that rider to participate in the events.

Patty Woodyard, a volunteer for the past five years, states the program has provided more than just a place for the handicapped to ride horses. It promotes good sportsmanship, and is physically therapeutic.

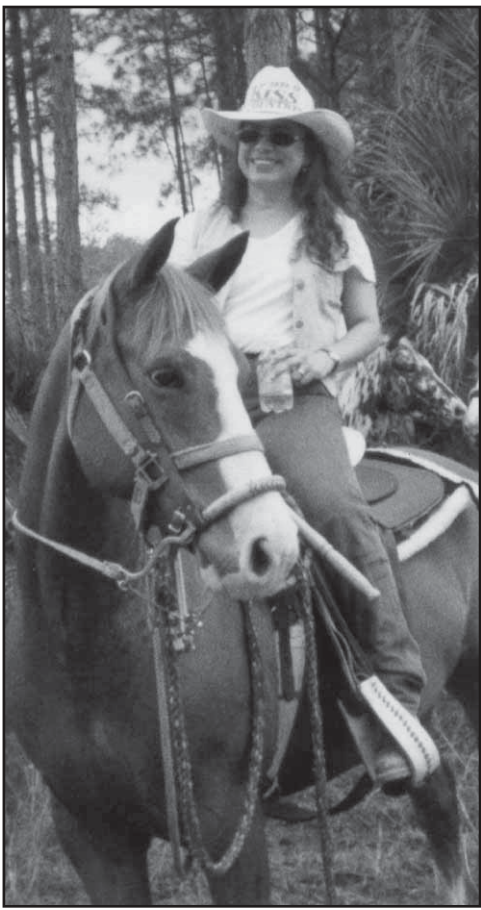
She told of a young child, who is now five years old.

At the age of six months the child had a stroke, which had left her partially paralyzed. After three years in the program, this little girl has nearly recovered completely

except for a slight paralysis, which remains in one of her hands.

Irma stated Tribal President Mitchell Cypress approached her. She says she rides in the cattle round up each year and enjoyed helping to raise funds for such a worthwhile cause.

She approached David Cypress, Glen Osceola, Mondo



Irma Platt has worked for the tribe for over three years.

Tiger and of course Mitchell, who all came through with the needed sponsorship funds — and then some! Irma was moved by the generosity of the various people who supported her in the Ride-a-thon.

Irma has worked for the Tribe for over three years, and says she has been riding since her cowboy husband got her interested in horses over five years ago. She loves horses and looks forward to any opportunity to ride.

Although this is the first year Irma has participated in this event, she says she enjoyed herself and would consider returning again next year since it is for such a worthwhile cause.

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Ms. Tiger's 'Men in Black.'



Ms. Whiteside's class performs 'Bye Bye Bye.'

Spring Festival Brings Plenty Of Smiles

Story and Photos by E. Tiger
BIG CYPRESS — Ahfachkee students gathered together in the school's auditorium June 1, not to hold another award ceremony for being this year's 2000 Title 1 Award recipient, but to hold their Spring Festival for parents and community members.

This year Spring Festival treated spectators to a dinner and a very amusing show. Pre-kindergarten up to seventh and eighth grades chose different themes for each of their performances. Mrs. White's Pre-kindergarten class, which took the stage first, sang "Peanut Butter and Jelly," and "Ducks Like Rain."

The youngsters were dressed in over sized yellow T-shirts and flapped their arms furiously like ducks while they sang each song.

If the first performance wasn't amusing enough, Mrs. Grismore's class of kindergarten students was sure to get your attention and laughter.

Their theme was 'Little Pig Blues' and 'We've got the whole world in our hands.' Youths during this performance were dressed with little piggy noses playing to a band decked out with guitars and dark sunglasses. They acted out the three little pig story with a rock and roll beat.

Mrs. Fuller's first grade class sang "This Old Man" and "All I really Need," followed by Mrs. Gibson's class "You Gotta Be."

One of the most inventive performances throughout the night had to be Mrs. Wineberg's fourth grade class. Their theme song was "Blue." Youths participating in this were dressed in blue with faces painted blue and hair wigs of blue — you get the idea.

The students hula-hooped throughout the show while some boys yo-yoed with the beat.

Towards the end of the show that night, Mrs. Tiger's third grade class went to the outer limits with their performance, "Men in Black." Each kid in this performance was dressed in a black suit to resemble the popular movie. Ms. Tiger, who also participated in the show herself as an alien, danced along with the students while the kids showed off their dancing talents.

"Phony Calls" and "Transformation" presented by Ms. Whiteside's fifth and sixth grade class and the Drama Club's performance of "Bye, Bye, Bye," wrapped up the night's dancing performance.

Ms. Hager's seventh and eighth grade class presented a slide show for the audience to end the night's presentation. The slide show took the audience through the students' experiences throughout the year, and demonstrated the youths' advancements and achievements on the computer system, which was made possible by the Tribal leaders.




Ms. White's Pre-K class.

This is to announce that the Chairman's Office is now in charge of the *PRINCESS PAGEANT* and I will be looking for the young ladies of the Seminole Tribe to participate in this competition. I would also like to invite our younger girls to participate in the *JR. MISS SEMINOLE PAGEANT*.

I will soon be announcing the *WHEN, WHERE AND TIMES* of the planned *MISS AND JR. MISS SEMINOLE PAGEANT* activities.

I am also selecting the Princess Pageant Committee Members.

Rules and regulations will be distributed at the times of the other announcements. If you have any questions at this time, contact this office.



James E. Billie
Chairman



SPORTS

Four Youngsters Compete As All-Stars

CLEWISTON — Austin Fisher, Tommy Jackson, Joshua Johns and Marshall Tommie represented Okeechobee in the Dixie Youth-All-Star T-ball tournament in Clewiston, June 2-4.

Playing for Chobee Gold, the Brighton youngsters, aged 5-6, were selected to the tournament All-Star team after Chobee Gold remained strong against their fiercest competition yet, Clewiston, which had been undefeated, and won 11-8.



Chobee Blue Rookie All Star team picked Melanie Jones.

Chobee Blue Rookie All Star team.

Melanie played pitcher's mound. Justin Aldridge, also from Brighton was chosen as Most Valuable Player and played on the 1st place team, Kiblers Trucking, in the AAA baseball league. Justin also played pitcher and first base.

All were awarded trophies in a ceremony Monday night.

The OCRA President, Morgan Lumpkin chose Jeff Johns, who coached the Seminole Reservation T-ball team, to coach Chobee Gold. The total team consisted of 14 team players and 5 coaches, Coach Jeff Johns, Assistant Coaches Gary Dubel, Sandy Valladares, and Jay Maynard.

In the Rookie League, Melanie Jones, 8, daughter of Danny and Jennifer Jones, was chosen for the



(Top to bottom) Coach Jeff Johns, Austin Fisher, Marshall Tommie, Tommy Jackson, Joshua Johns.

Big Cypress Rodeo Results

BIG CYPRESS — The following are the results of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Rodeo held May 20 at the Junior Cypress Rodeo Arena.

Bareback Riding — No qualified results. **Steer Wrestling** — Naha Jumper, 10.4 seconds, 10 points. Jason Grasshopper, 10.6 seconds, 9 points. Jeff Johns, 14.2 seconds, 8 points. **Calf Roping** — Josh Jumper, 13 seconds, 10 points. Naha Jumper, 16.2 seconds, 9 points.

Saddle Bronc Riding — Robert Simpson, 58, 10 points. **Team Roping** — Josh Jumper and Jason Grasshopper, 8.1 seconds, 10 points. Sidney Gore and Billie Tiger, 10.1 seconds, 9 points. Jeff Johns and Todd Johns, 15.1 seconds, 8 points. Moses Jumper Jr. and Sampson Gopher, 19.7 seconds, 7 points.

Women's Barrel Racing — Tess Ducheneaux, 17.67 seconds, 10 points. Ayze Henry, 18.25 seconds, 9 points. Holly "Scooter" Johns, 18.28 seconds, 8 points. Emma Johns, 18.62 seconds,

7 points. **Women's BreakAway Roping** — Billie Tiger, 4.6 seconds, 10 points. Joe Leigh Johns, 7.8 seconds, 9 points.

Bull Riding — No qualified rides.

Special Events — Mutton Busting — Jamie Gonzales, 13.1 seconds. Brandtley Osceola, Jaryarca Baker, 2.7 seconds.

Calf Roping — Randel Osceola, 56 points. Ethan Gopher, 52 points. Nathan Gopher, 40 points. Roy Stewart, 3.12 seconds. **Beginner Barrels** — Danielle Webster, 19.784 seconds. Morningstar Webster, 20.66 seconds. Sheyanna Osceola, 21.21 seconds. **50 and Over BreakAway** — Rudy Osceola, 4.3 seconds.

Novice Barrels — "Mad" Mary Huff, 20.763 seconds. LeAnna Billie, 21.697 seconds.

Junior Bull Riding — Lucky Stewart, 61 points. Jerome Davis, 49 points.

Josh Jumper was All Around Cowboy, earning 20 points.

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Candy Osceola Pool Tourney Results

By Libby Blake
HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood Recreation was home again to the 4th Annual Candy Osceola Memorial Pool Tournament held May 19 - 20. Council Representatives Max Osceola and David Cypress co-sponsored the events.

The seniors started off the tourney with singles and scotch doubles 8-ball rounds on Friday night. Youth (17 and under) also competed in singles matches.

Of the 19 boys in the youth division Tony Sanchez came out the winner. Ray Yzaguirre III, Jimmy Stewart, Anthony Hernandez, and Nick Jumper followed. Ten girls took to the tables in competition. Phalyn Osceola took home the top position followed by Krystle Young, Jessica Turtle, Shyla Jones, and Esmeralda Billie. The



Moke and Betty Osceola, Buddy and Alice Sweat, Ronnie Doctor, Mabel Osceola, Annie Jumper, Joe Billie Jr., Juanita and Russell Osceola.

was defeated by Laura Clay. Vivian Osceola finished in the third position followed by Cindy Osceola and Arica Buck.

Boromei recovered in scotch doubles competition with partner George Grasshopper. They walked away with first place after a fierce match with Leoda Sauls and Boogie Nunez who had to settle for second. Third place went to Cindy and Keith Osceola, fourth to Alvira Muskett and Tony Bert, and fifth place to Arica and Shane Buck.

Juanita Osceola presented the winners with cash awards. Top place in each event also received a customized jean jacket commemorating Jean.

After the Candy Osceola tournament, Councilman David Cypress sponsored an open 9-ball competition. Twenty-seven men and 18 women anted up \$20 each to compete in the race-to-three, double-elimination event.

Winners were as follows: Men: 1st place — Corey Penrod, 2nd place — Bob Osborne, 3rd place — O.B. Osceola, 4th place — Woody Wilson, and 5th place — Miguel Chacon. Women winners follows: 1st place — Cindy Osceola, 2nd place — Juanita Osceola,



Theresa Boromei, George Grasshopper, Boogie Nunez, Leoda Sauls, Cindy and Keith Osceola, Shane Buck, Arica Buck, Tony Bert.

youth were awarded gift certificates to the Broward Mall.

Nine men and six women seniors then took to the tables. David Bowers, who lost to brother Eugene in the first round, faced off with him again in the finals and took the number one position. This left Eugene Bowers with a second place finish. Ronnie Doctor placed third, followed by Joe Billie Jr. and Moke Osceola.

Annie Jumper took top honors for the women. Mabel Osceola, Juanita Osceola, Betty Osceola, and Alice Sweat rounded out the top five in the fun-filled action packed event.

Scotch doubles winners were Annie Jumper and Joe Billie Jr. Mabel Osceola and Ronnie Doctor took second. Alice and Buddy Sweat placed third. Fourth place went to Betty and Moke Osceola and Juanita and Russell Osceola rounded out the top five.

On Saturday, 35 men and 24 women faced off for straight double elimination 8-ball play. Elrod Bowers took on all comers without a loss to walk away with first place. Tony Billie, Terry Willie, Tony Bert, and David Billie rounded out the top five.

Defending women's champ Theresa Boromei had to settle for second this year when she



Tony Sanchez, Ray Yzaguirre III, Lucky Stewart, Anthony Hernandez, Nick Jumper.

3rd place Charlene Haynes, 4th place — Carlene Osceola, and 5th place — Theresa Boromei and Libby Blake (tie).

Oklahoma Players Win Pool Tournament Honors

HOLLYWOOD — Oklahoma shooters finished high atop a winner's board filled with Seminoles at the 1st Annual National Native American Pool Tournament held May 26-27 in the Lucky Bucks poolroom at the Hollywood Greyhound Track.

Dale Cable of Oklahoma took honors in the men's singles with a victory over David Nunez in the finals played before a packed house. Theresa Boromei went undefeated to take first place in the women's singles.

In the team division, the Comanche Stix of Oklahoma defeated the Seminole team Boogie Men to take the team trophy back to Oklahoma. In the women's division, the Seminole team Stomping Ground defeated



Teams Men — 1) Comanche Stix — Dale Cable, Lloyd Nickel, Bob Tissyhy, Rick

Nunez, Dallas Nunez, David Nunez, Shane Buck, 3) Seminole — David Cypress, Tony Billie, George Grasshopper, Jimmy Clay, Randy Clay, 4) Motown Boyz — Ralph Sanchez, David Billie, Roy Garza, O.B. Osceola, 5) Trail — Woody Wilson, Terry Willie, Jimmy Bert, Joe Billie

Women — 1) Stomping Ground — Theresa Boromei, Arica Buck, Oneva Jones, Louise Jim, 2) Oklahoma Shooters + 1 — Tana Washington, Mindi Fish, Edwina Betoney, 3) Intertribal — Dale Grasshopper, Carlene Osceola, Virginia Billie, Shirley Mitchell, Sonya Johns, 4) No Names — Leoda Sauls, Nadine Tommie, Alice Sweat, Joanne Osceola, 5) Laura Clay, Alvira Muskett, Juanita Osceola, Yvette Jumper



Cizek, 2) Boogie Men — Boogie

the Oklahoma Shooters + 1, in the finals to keep the top prize in Florida.

The following are the results:

Singles Men — 1) Dale Cable, 2) David Nunez, 3) Jimmy Clay, 4) Bob Tissyhy, 5/6) Ray Garza, O.B. Osceola, 7/8) Jack Billie, Lloyd Nickel, 9-12) Boogie Nunez, Dallas Nunez, Tony Billie, Terry Willie

Women — 1) Theresa Boromei, 2) Tana Washington, 3) Mindi Fish, 4) Louise Jim, 5/6) Virginia Billie, Juanita Osceola, 7/8) Oneva Jones, Arica Buck, 9-12) Edwina Betoney, Shirley Mitchell, Linda Buck, Carlene Osceola





(L-R) Ms. Darcy Schmachtenberger, Tasha Osceola, Coach Eric Spee, Mercedes and JoJo Osceola.

Osceola Girls Shine In '99

By E. Tiger
HOLLYWOOD — Virginia and Joe Dan Osceola watched their daughters Mercedes, Tasha and JoJo receive awards at the Sheridan Hills Christian School's annual sports banquet May 19.

Mercedes, 16, who is also the Junior Miss Seminole and the oldest of the Osceola's

four daughters, received the most recognition. "Mercedes had a great year, not to mention the game winning three pointer she made in the Regional Championships back in March," said coach Eric Spee. "It wasn't the shot that really counted, it was the courage it took to take a shot like that."

Mercedes was presented the MVP Basketball Award for her achievements throughout the season.

In addition, all three sisters were members of the District Championship and Regional Runner-up Cross Country Team. Mercedes won the District Race in the Regional Runner-up helping place the Sheridan Hills Team 7th in the state.

Their accomplishments gave the three sisters an opportunity to be featured in the *Miami Herald* and *Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel*, where they received recognition for their accomplishments during the track season finals.

Tasha received three individual awards for All County Basketball, All Conference Cross-Country and All County Cross-Country. JoJo received an honorable mention award for Cross Country and a Team Coach's Award for JV Girls Basketball, where she was the leading scorer on the conference champion team, that had an overall year record of 11-3.

JoJo also participated in the All-County Cross-Country Team where they placed

The girls seemed to echo throughout the night, including the daughter Coach Spee was proud to see an award from Courtney Osceola.

"She (Courtney) is the youngest of the sisters and has become the Sheridan Hills Mascot and a social bug to all athletic members among the school," Spee said.

The crowd laughed in agreement.



Mercedes shows her award.

Women Bowlers Invited To 'Fun In The Sun' 2001

By Tom Gallaher
HOLLYWOOD — Seminole Country will be awash in bowlers next year as women from all over the world travel to Fort Lauderdale for the Women's International Bowling Congress. In this regard, Florida Seminole Tourism joined forces with Greater Fort Lauderdale recently at this year's WIBC in Reno, Nev. Four-thousand delegates received information on Greater Fort Lauderdale attractions in anticipation of their 2001 "Fun in the Sun" convention which will take place in Greater Fort Lauderdale, April 19-24.

The Greater Fort Lauderdale Convention and Visitors Bureau (GFLCVB) set up an impressive display of a Fort Lauderdale Beach, complete with palm trees and beach balls. Staffers giving out information and souvenirs included Bruce Appel, Debbi Toreson, Grover Moberly, and Terry Kuca.

Tom Gallaher, Development and Promotions Coordinator for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, and Lee Tiger of Florida Seminole Tourism, gave the delegates souvenir pins, posters and information on the Seminole tourist attractions.

They all were very interested in the museum, Billy Swamp Safari, and the Seminole casinos, and they really enjoyed getting "pinned" with a Seminole Tribe millennium pin.



Tom Gallaher, Bob Toreson, Marilyn Gerace, Bruce Appel, Debbi Toreson Lee Tiger get together to plan Fun In The Sun Tournament.

"We are bowled over by the excitement that the women bowlers expressed about coming to Fort Lauderdale in 2001 for fun in the sun," said Nicki E. Grossman, president of the GFLCVB. "We are looking forward to hosting the largest women's sports conference in the U.S., with 12,000 teams and 60,000 bowlers for an economic impact of \$60 million in our area from April through July 2001."

The delegates will be bowling at Sawgrass Bowling Center in Sunrise and Don Carter Bowling Center in Tamarac.

— Tom Gallaher is Development and Promotions Coordinator for Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.



Tom Gallaher "pins" Shirley Wilkerson.



Janet Smith performs in G...

Janet Smith 'Superstar'

BRIGHTON — Janet Smith is a member of the Gollieher's Girls "Superstars" Competition Team. Janet has been a member of Gollieher Girls Baton and Tumbling group for two years. This year Janet joined the "Superstars" competition team. Janet has attended three competitions this year with the team.

Janet is one of the performers in the miniature show team program, *Grease*. The team performed at the Okeechobee High School

Powder Puff game and won first at all three competitions they attended. As well as competing with the group, Janet competed in marching events individually at the three contests and received three first place trophies as well as a couple of medals.

The team is currently preparing for the WTA State Competition that will be held in St. Petersburg on June 10, followed by the National Competition in Beechwood, Ohio from July 3-10.

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EIRA Profile: The Webster Sisters

By Michael James

BIG CYPRESS — Meet Star and Danielle Websters the daughters of Bonita and Glen Osceola who are making a name for themselves on the Junior Rodeo Circuit.

"She's (Star) better than Danielle and me and doesn't have to practice as much," says Bonita. Regardless, the girls practice every night making sure to exercise their horses.

Star became a participant in the EIRA a year and a half ago, and in that time has placed first in the Beginner Barrels event several times. However, her rodeo experience doesn't stop there.

"We rodeo a lot in Hollywood and Brighton," she says. She took first and second place ribbons in the Ranch Rodeo in Clewiston. This is definitely a family affair, with mom and sister riding and dad coaching, they participate in ranch rodeos all over South Florida. She is a member of the Seminole Wind Horse Club and the NBHA, placing in both.

Bonita believes rodeo is good for kids to get involved in. Star is responsible for the maintenance of her animals. The only thing she receives help with is the cleaning of the stalls, and mom usually lends her hand.

Star is also a member of the 4-H Club where she has shown ducks, hens and rabbits adding those to the list of animals to take care of.

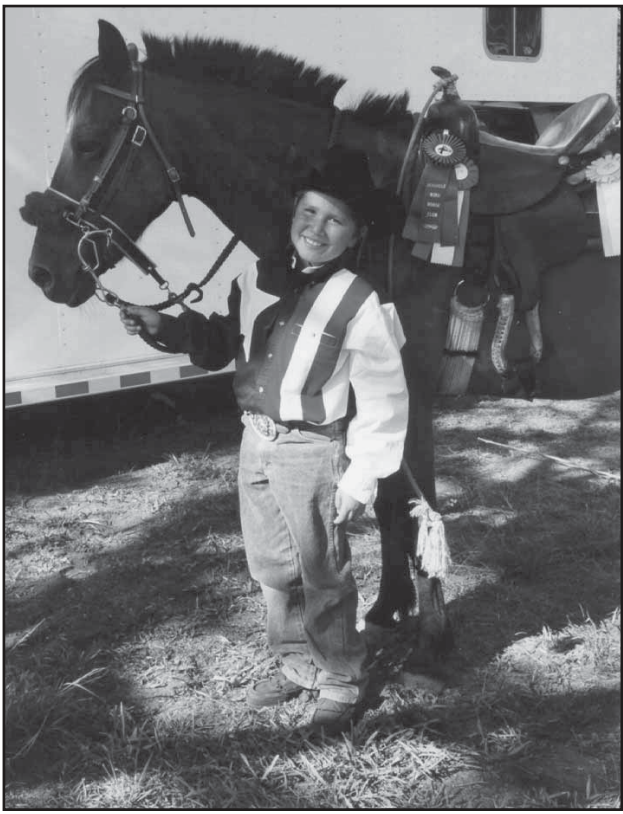
Responsible and independent, Star involves herself in many activities at school. Frequently her mom finds about them when she discovers her missing. She plays the keyboard, is in the Golf Club, the Horse Club, and she plays for the B.C. Renegades in T-ball.

"I come home from school or they call me from school and I will be looking for Star and they tell me that she is at keyboard, or she is golfing, I never know what club she will join next," says mom.

But she is also a typical child. She enjoys playing with her puppies, feeding her animals and

parted in ranch rodeos, Hollywood rodeos, the Seminole Wind Horse Club and 4-H as well.

Like her sister, Danielle is given the responsibility of the caring for her animals too. Danielle enjoys computers and actually enjoys tests. She loves



Danielle Webster loves to read in her spare time.

reading in her spare time.

Spare time, though, is seldom. While she is very active in rodeos, she also is in the Drama Club, plays soccer and absolutely loves to play "animal" bingo with her friend's grandma.

Both girls and their mother are from Minnesota and are from the Ojibwa Tribe. They have lived at Big Cypress for four years and even though they still are not used to Florida's heat, Danielle still loves to go the beach and Sun Splash with her best friends.

Danielle is very interested in learning both Creek and Miccosukee languages, and though it is very different from their language, "they are both doing very well," says Bonita.

Danielle also shared with us her love of doing beadwork and patchwork. She hopes to do enough to some day put in her dad's store, when it opens.

When coming to Big Cypress, the family lived in Florida for three years.

Travel is not new to the family.

"They have traveled three of the ladies, Bonita, Star and Danielle are pow wow dancers. The girls have been dancing since they were young. Their travels have taken them over the United States."

Bonita, Star and Glen are the Direct and Assistant Director of the Prevention at Big Cypress.



Morningstar Webster rides and grooms her horse.

helping her mom with chores. She also likes school. Star has a sister, Danielle, 9. Both sisters started riding at the same time. Danielle has partici-



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Memorial Day Weekend Seminole Sports Festival



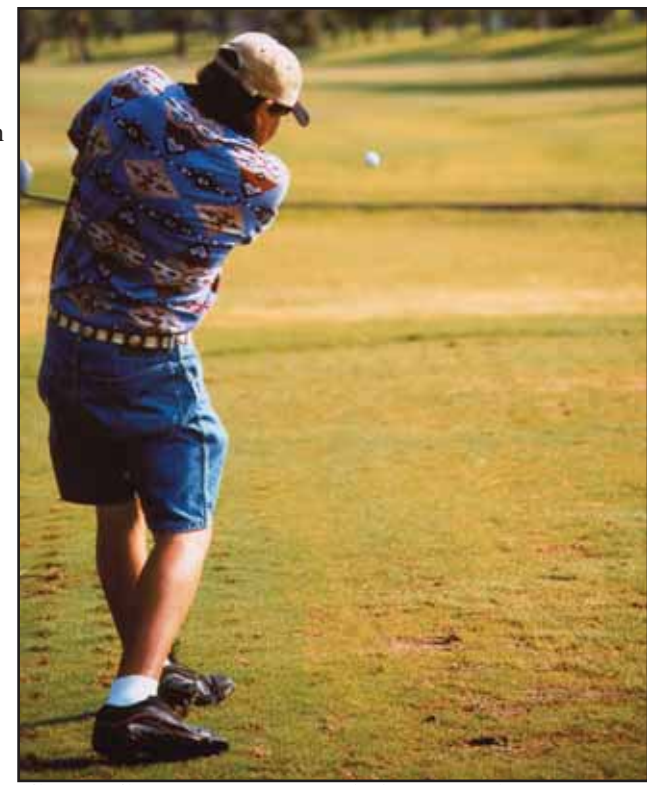
This unidentified golfer puts in a little practice before tournament.

Sports Festival Golf Results

4-Man Scramble- 1) (60) Bigshot Jumper, Dewayne Whaler, John Madrigal 2) (61) Jimmy Osceola, Joe Osceola, Allen Huff, Tana Washington 3) (62) Jim Osceola, Jason Grasshopper, Marl Osceola, Bobby Frank 4) (63) Sandy Pembleton, Rock Locust, Kerry Wahler, Charlie Cypress 5) (64) Kendall Whaler, Alan Jumper, Mike Micco, Mindi Fish.



Trophies were lined up and ready to be handed out to the winning teams.



George Grasshopper shows his form on this shot.



Max Tommie, Ralph Tembleton, Joe Osceola Jr., Abe Rockwell, 6th Place team.



Alan Jumper, Mike Micco, Mindi Fish, Kendall Whaler, 5th place team.



Dwayne Whaler, Moses Jumper, John Madrigal, 1st place team.



Bo Young kept his eyes down on this shot.



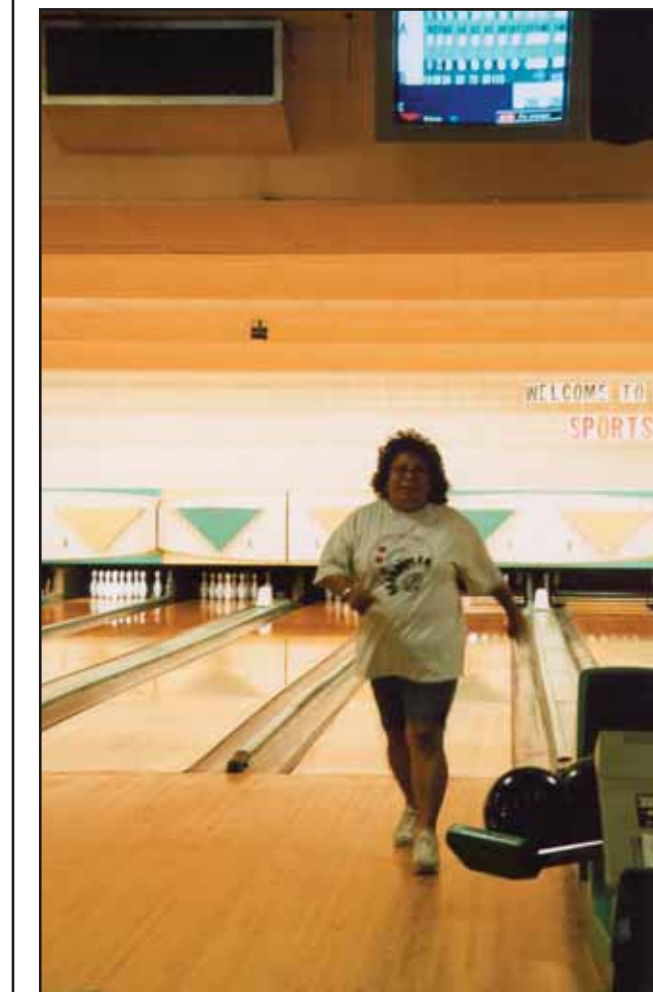
Mitch Osceola shows his ball form off the tee in this shot.



Driving range practice helped Bo Young's team place 7th.

Sports Festival Bowling Results

Team Bowling- 1) 2378 pins, Diane Smith, Dana Osceola, Pernell Bert, Roger Smith, 2) 2357 pins, Jack Smith, Linda Tommie, Lois Smith, Maxie Tommie 3) 2357 pins, Alvira Muskett, Harold Hill, Becky Hill, Marcel Osuna 4) 2326 pins, Brande Clay,



Lawana Osceola helped her team to fifth place finish.

Milo Osceola, Monica Cypress, Chris Osceola 5) 2324 pins, Lawana Osceola, Cornelia Osceola, Hyde Gopher, Joe Kippenburger

Mixed Doubles- 1) 1205 pins, MaryJo Micco, Bobby Watchman, 2) 1178 pins, Sonya Johns, Toby Johns 3) 1171 pins, Brande Clay, Delwin McCowan 4) 1159 pins, Gloria James, Jonathan James 5) 1157 pins, Mary T. Bowers, Eugene Bowers 6) 1155 pins, Heather Osceola, David Jumper 7) 1153 pins, Crystal Huff, Jamie Smith 8) 1146 pins, Linda Tommie, Maxie Tommie 9) 1144 pins, Louise Jim, Rocky Jim 10) 1142 pins, Tomie Micco, Mike Micco

Men's Doubles- 1) 1262 pins, Harold Hill, Marcel Osuna 2) 1233 pins, Kevin Holata, Elbert Snow 3) 1199 pins, Jimmy Osceola, Ronnie Doctor 4) 1183 pins, Bobby Watchman, Jonathan James

Women's Doubles- 1) 1171 pins, Betty Osceola, Brande Clay 2) 1164 pins, Diane Smith, Mary Jo Micco 3) 1154 pins, Valerie Holata, Salina Dorgan 4) 1153 pins, Cindy Osceola, Maydell Osceola

Men's Singles- 1) 713 pins, David Jumper 2) 702 pins, Moke Osceola 3) 670 pins, Sammy Gopher 4) 620 pins, Rocky Jim 5) 628 pins, Hyde Gopher 6) 621 pins, Bobby Watchman 7) 618 pins, Harold Hill 8) 614 pins, Blake Osceola

Women's Singles- 1) 638 pins, Tomie Micco 2) 631 pins, Louise Jim 3) 609 pins, Rosie Billie, Diane Smith 4) 607 pins, Mary Bowers 5) 604 pins, Betty Osceola, Celesta Osceola 6) 603 pins, Sonya Johns

Men's All-Event- 1) 1955 pins, Moke Osceola 2) 1941 pins, Elbert Snow 3) 1940 pins, David Jumper 4) 1902 pins, Sammy Gopher 5) 1887 pins, Bobby Watchman 6) 1882 pins, Hyde Gopher

Women's All-Event- 1) 1836 pins, Tomie Micco 2) 1821 pins, Diane Smith 3) 1770 pins, Sonya Johns 4) 1764 pins, Jeanette Cypress 5) 1757 pins, Brande Clay, Rosie Billie

Fastpitch Softball Woman's Division



1st place – DVSS – Cherokee, NC, 2nd place – Travelers – Miss.

Other teams competing – Seminole – Fla., Bad News Bears – NC, Lady Sluggers – Miss.

Fastpitch Softball Men's Division



1st place – Four Seasons – Cherokee, NC 2nd place – Braves – Cherokee, NC other teams competing – Chieftains – NY, Red Storm – Miss., Tribe – Miss., IAC – NY, Seminole – Fla.



"I hate to do this," said Chief. But he signed the guitar anyway.

Chief Jim Billie – 'On Tour'

The sweeping national success of his *Alligator Tales* CD has put Seminole Chief and his band in high demand at Native American events. Only a few days ago, the Chief and his five-piece band finished a week-long tour that took them to four Native events in three states.

It began on June 7 with a banquet concert at the Native American Behavioral Health Circle at the Myriad Convention Center in Oklahoma City, just down the hall from the fabulous Red Earth Powwow. On the next evening, the group traveled to the Cleveland County Fairgrounds in Norman, OK, to kick off the Turtle Island Sports Festival, sponsored by the brand new Indigenous Nations Cultural and Sports Association. An old friend, Oklahoma Seminole Louis Johnson, provided the able sound system and backbone.

On June 10, the Tribal jet landed in Window Rock, Ariz., and vans took the band and its equipment to Tsail where Chief Billie entertained at the Navajo Music Festival on the

grounds of beautiful Diné College. He was greeted by Navajo President Kelsey Begay, whose own musical group presented a gospel set before Chief Billie's. Then it was off to the Buffalo, N.Y., area where the band performed at the Native American Music Festival sponsored by the Seneca Nation of New York. There he was greeted by Seneca President Duane Jim Ray. Chief Billie was welcomed at each stop by fans who wanted his autograph on everything from T-shirts and CDs to programs and guitars. It was amazing to the Chief and band members to hear Native kids on other reservations singing the words to songs like "Big Alligator." Other Radio KTNN of Window Rock broadcast an hour-long interview with the Chief by host Lorie Lee.

"I really love to play at the Native events," said Chief Billie. "They seem really interested in what we Seminoles are up to. It makes me want to write some more universal songs like 'Old Ways.'"

For more photos and tour info, go to www.chiefjimbillie.com

Photos and story by Peter B. Gallagher.



Seneca bassist Freightrain Parker, Seneca President Duane Jim Ray and Chief Billie.



Remember attorney Mike Kobiolka? He lives near Seneca Country.



Old friends stop by to say hello in Norman, OK.



Autograph sessions followed each musical set.



Chief and band appeared on Native American Film Festival movie stage.



Mr. and Mrs. Art Montour stopped by the Buffalo show. Art shot the video of the gator biting off the Chief's finger.



Seminole filmmaker Karen Tommie (l) sits next to mother, Dorothy, before showing her film at the Seneca film festival.



Navajo President Kelsey Begay plays a mean guitar at Music Fest.



Silhouetted before the rugged Navajo Country landscape, Chief and his band entertain.

Record

Continued from page 1

them up or add anything. If there is any vulgarity or obscenity or cruelty mentioned, it is left in there because that is the way of things even today as it was back then."

The Chief's world is closely surrounded by the animal kingdom neighbors he grew up with, and all have played important roles in Seminole history and how to get along. The rabbit, bear, alligator, possum, snake, buzzard, wood stork, frogs, raccoon, deer, dog, fish, all come to life in the Chief's resonant delivery, as life's lessons are given through their eyes and actions.

Titles include: *How the Raccoon Got it's Mask*, *Bashful Star*, *Legend of the Kissimmee River*, *The Dog and the Alligator*, *How the Possum Became a Marsupial*, and more.

Once again, Chief Billie has teamed up with John McEuen (producer/musician of *Alligator Tales* – Chief Jim Billie's first SOAR album, released in 1999), in a unique and creative project more than two years in the making. McEuen, a founder of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, also writes the music behind the Chief's presentations, approaching the task as if it were a film score, creating an enchanting canvas for the Chief to paint his stories on. Utilizing a combination of music, sound effects and modern recording techniques to support the timeless tales delivered by the Chief's captivating voice, *Seminole Fire* transcends the usual and transports the listener to a new realm.

"With his great voice and unusual stories, the challenge writing music to enhance them was exciting. I think it is one of the best recordings I have made," says McEuen.

SOAR president Tom Bee, says: "Chief

Billie is a natural born story teller. *Seminole Fire* is outrageously good, and the tone of his voice is incredible." Bee, a leader in the successful effort to add a Native American category to the Grammys, is expecting even more critical acclaim than garnered by Chief Jim Billie's first SOAR release, *Alligator Tales*.

As the Chief explains, these stories were "meant to be told at night . . ." So, picture yourself meeting up with him, in the middle of a mysterious Everglades night on his Big Cypress Reservation, as they unfold, - with the sounds of the night mixed in. Time-honored tales, teachings and legends presented in this new century bring forth these enduring endearing enchantments to the forefront of American culture for all, and are now captured for posterity on CD.

Commercial success or personal fame, however, was not the motivation for this project, says Chief Billie: "I am telling these stories and passing on these legends so my children can learn them in the same verbalization as they were told to me. We live in a different world today and this form of communication is one of the best ways to reach people and preserve culture."

Excerpts from *Seminole Fire* and all of Chief Jim Billie's recorded works can be heard on his website at www.chiefjimbillie.com. Please consult this website for information regarding the CD release parties and other appearances of Chief Billie and his band.

The Alligator Alley event will include a CD release by the Miccosukee band Tiger Tiger and will honor delegates from the Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) as special guests. Call (954) 742-8505 for information. For the Chocolate Moose, reservations are suggested: Call Bill Messer at (954) 474-5040.

Alligator Alley and Billie Swamp Safari Present

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Saturday June 24
9 p.m.

Starring:

Also Live On Stage!

Washington D.C. Swampabilly legend

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The Gator that Bit Off The Chief's Finger

SOAR Recording artist and

Nammy Winner

Ray Becerra's Wild Birds of Prey

★ Chief Jim Billie

Gator John's Dangerous Snakes

Seminole Records Artist and

New Times Award Winner

Half Man, Half Beast, Sasquatch Shelley

★ Ralford Starke and the Lifers

Raffles ★ Giveaways ★ Special Swamp Menu

ALLIGATOR ALLEY

NATIVE FLORIDA BAR AND GRILL

2079 N. University Drive, Sunrise, FL (954) 742-MUSIC

Missing

Continued from page 1

Jr., who lives about a quarter-mile from the spot where the Honda careened into the canal. He watched as investigators cut the roof off with a torch. There was also damage to both the front and rear of the Honda, Jumper and SPD sources agreed. Police Chief Tom Hernan would not comment on the direction the vehicle was laying on the canal bottom, or whether or not seat belts were fastened.

McDaniel, who might know the answer to the first question, did not return phone messages to the Tribune.

“The windows were open, but the roof was crushed,” Jumper said. “The canal’s normally a good 15 feet deep, but the water level’s dropped so much they (McDaniel and the helicopter pilot from Seminole Aviation) were able to see it. The divers had been there for a couple of days when I talked to them. They told me they found a wallet and a Bible. But the bodies were not intact.”

Jumper said he saw divers show the wallet and Bible to Tigertail’s relatives who were also present when the car was extracted. Yvonne Puente, Tigertail’s girlfriend and a curator at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum where Tigertail worked as a guide before his disappearance, said she doubted the Bible was his.

“He’s a good guy,” she said of Malcolm. “He was a very nice guy. Everybody liked him. The last time I saw him was Friday at work. I talked to him on Saturday (May 15, 1999) during the day. From what I heard, Malcolm was with Manuel all night.”

Jumper speculated that the car had apparently flipped going into the canal, and may have pinned the passengers when it sank into the mud.

“I’ve been down to the bottom of that canal many times swimming, and it’s not that firm,” Jumper said. “There’s at least a foot of mud.” If so, he said, the pancaked roof did not allow much room,

investigator with the Lee County Medical Examiner’s Office in Fort Myers, remains have been transferred to a bone specialist in Gainesville for positive identification. These are the known facts:

*Neither Manuel Pizana nor Malcolm Tigertail, who were reported missing with the car, has been found in the 13



Charles Flowers

END OF THE ROAD: No warning signs mark the end of Henry Osceola Boulevard and canal road.

months since they disappeared.

*The car was registered to Pizana. He was last seen, according to a Missing Flyer circulated by the family, on May 15, 1999, in the Honda with Tigertail.

*Partial human remains were found near the spot where the Honda sank. They have been sent to Dr. Anthony Falsetti, an anthropologist at the C.A. Pound Human Identification Lab at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

Malcolm Tigertail worked as a tour guide at the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum. When the pair was reported missing in May of last year, Museum Director Billy L. Cypress put up a reward for information leading to their safe return. Pizana worked as a security guard there.

Tigertail also worked with Jose Pizana, the brother of Manuel, at the Museum. The two of them were last seen on May 15, 1999. Tigertail and Manuel were last reported on the reservation between 3 and 4 a.m.

Other reported sightings of the men did not pan out.

“Everything stopped,” Hernan said. “Cell phones. Credit card purchases. And there was no tracking.”

That’s where the trail ended. Before last Sunday.

By Friday, Hernan said there was some dental evidence recovered. But only Tigertail had any dental records to match.

“The (medical examiner) might have to run DNA tests,” to positively identify one or both of the missing men, Hernan said.

Medina agreed that DNA evidence may be required, and that the process, which matches genetic material from family members, could take months.



Aerial photo shows Big Cypress airstrip (l), and paved road on the right that ends at an unmarked intersection with the dirt road along canal.



Charles Flowers

STOP SIGN DOWN: Shot, submerged in canal.

or time, for escape.

The Seminole Police Department would not comment further on a case Hernan said is still under investigation. A team from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement “processed” the scene, he said, combing for any evidence of foul play. SCUBA divers volunteered from the Okeechobee County Sheriff’s Department. But, by press-time, no positive identification could be made of either missing man, sources said.

“Common sense tells you that it is them,” Hernan said. “But we have a traffic accident and a homicide investigation on-going. All we have is a car in a canal.”

He later added: “An accident’s the easiest assumption. At the same time, I have to have a forensic conclusion. We have bones and we have two missing people. We’re trying to put them together and see if there’s a match.”

Still, families of both missing men were notified.

According to Sal Medina, an

Medina and Hernan both reported that volunteer divers are continuing to sift the mud for more skeletal remains. But by last Friday, the divers were no longer in evidence. Only a downed STOP sign, partially submerged and dented with bullets, and the post of another littered the bank — along with numerous beer containers, and spent shells.

“That’s a real kind of party area,” Moses Jumper, Jr. said. “Whatever does get put there gets shot up or torn down.”

The stop sign, partially covered in mud and marine life, was grim proof of that. On Friday, Jumper said it had been months since any stop sign was in place.

In fact, the only signage on a long stretch of road leading to the spot where the Honda left the road were four brightly painted yellow posts surrounding a fire hydrant. There were no cautionary signs as drivers approach the canal; no “Caution” or “Stop Ahead,” “Pavement Ends” or speed bumps warnings. At night, the fatal intersection is lit only by the moon.

Jumper and Puente expressed concern about the stretch of Henry Osceola

Boulevard. Two-lane blacktop runs nearly a mile before it “T’s” to the rutted dirt road along the canal, laughingly called Hollywood Boulevard. Jumper believes the paved stretch (see aerial photograph) gives joy-riders from the Big Cypress Community, or visitors, a chance to “get on it” with little opportunity to slow

and a second, “dualie” pickup truck driven by Jason Grasshopper, ditched directly in the identical spot where the Honda was found.

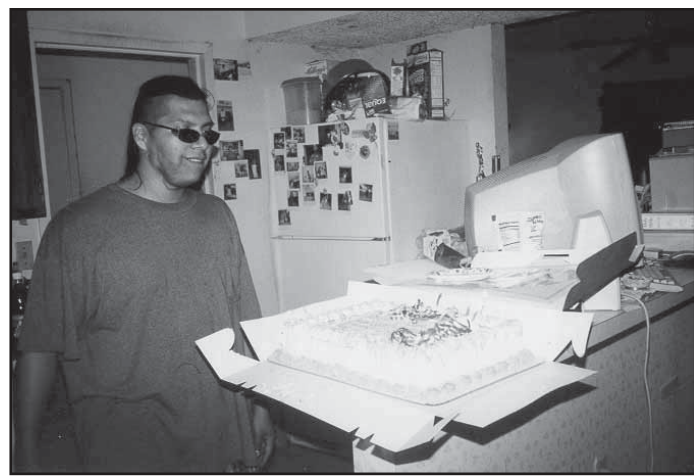
“They’re going to do something about that,” Jumper said.

Puente agreed: “There should be rumble strips, and those reflecting signs that show the road T’s. I think they should definitely put a barricade there, and a stop sign for sure. I heard there used to be one there.”

Hernan countered: “The BIA controls those roads,” When asked why there were no warning signs or barricades, he explained, “These are country roads.”

“When you look at it, the way the road T-bones, it’s possible they (the victims in the Honda Civic) just ran off road,” Hernan said.

— Staff Writers Elrod Bowers, Ernie Tiger and Colin Kenny contributed to this report. Charles Flowers is a frequent contributor to the Seminole Tribune.



Macolm Tigertail in recent birthday photo.

down or stop unless they know from experience what to expect ahead.

As last two other people have driven into the canal in recent years. One fatality may have also occurred on the road, but could not be confirmed. Two other vehicles, one driven by Eli Billie



Charles Flowers

Automobile was found in the L-28 I Canal, one mile north of the Snake Road intersection.

HUMOR

Dear Momma:

As a boy growing up in Starkansaw, my summers were always spent miles from home at some sort of camp for wayward youth. My mother would pack up a knapsack full of clothes and cans of Spam, lecture me about clean underwear and make me stand in front of my dad until he would kiss me goodbye.

I hated this part and so did my dad. Boys in the Starke family don't really cotton to that sort of affection; we only did it to silence Mom. Dad would make me wait for 30 minutes while he read the sports pages, cut his toenails and kept clearing his throat with a sound that always reminded me of a big bull-frog in mid-road kill.

Eventually Mom would grab the paper out of his hand and point a .38 right at his forehead and begin to shriek: "Give him a #\$\$%^ kiss, Al. For Shriek's sake he's your son and you won't see him for two months."

Dad would finally reach over and, with breath that smelled like gaso-line spilled in a locker-room, kind of pass his cheek by mine like two magnets turned opposite. He would then hold me close and chant a song over and over that went something like "One-two, three-four-five, six, seven-eight-nine, ten!" (I didn't know it at the time, but he was actually teaching me how to count!)

In a way the ritual of saying goodbye to my dad worked, for whenever I would feel homesick, I would remember the legendary breadth of Alcatraz Starke and his would cure my blues real fast.

Then, right as Mom put me on the Greyhound bus, she would hand me a stack of stamped envelopes, a pad of paper and a box of pens. "Write me, Raiford," she would say earnestly. "You never know if I might drop dead while you're gone and I don't want you to feel guilty about not writing your mother before she died."

Looking back on it now, this is where my writing career began. I remember it just like yesterday, sweating beneath a canvas tent while all the other boys were running around playing Sasquatch. They were playing and having fun while I strained by the beam of a flashlight to think of the right words to let my Mom know I missed her.

This is also where my lifetime problem with writer's block began.

It's been a good three years since the last time I went to summer camp. To be honest, I couldn't take saying goodbye to my dad any more, so I put my foot down and told Mom: "I ain't goin' back, Mom."

I know it hurt her not to receive those summer letters. So, this year, just for old time's sake I thought I would write her one more letter and tell her what I've been doing with my summer hanging out with Chief Billie of the Seminole Indians:

Dear Momma:
So here I am your son, Raiford Starke with another terminal case of chronic writer's block. As we go careening down the runway in an airplane the Chief says used to belong to King Hussein, I look out the window over Navaho Country and realize this place reminds me of Florida, except for the buttes, prairie dogs and sagebrush. But I'm getting ahead of myself, Mom.

It all started in White Springs, Florida at the Florida Folk Festival. I was hanging out at the Seminole camp and trying to order some frybread from Lorene Gopher, and she gave me a watermelon instead — and I mean it was a big watermelon. I ate as much as I could, and saved the rest of it in my beard. All of the sudden it was show time.

"Man, what's wrong with you," said Pete from Sunset Beach as he pointed over towards the Marble Stage, "the Chief and the band are waiting for you over there."

"Uh, tell 'em to do a couple of warm-up numbers," I told him, "while I go down to the Suwannee River and get this watermelon juice off my fingers . . . I mean, I can't get this stuff all over my guitar."

But before I slipped away, I could here some chanting: "Raiphord! Raiphord! Raiphord!" It was some Phish fans who recognized me from the Big Cypress millennium concert. I couldn't just leave now, Fame was a-knock-knock knockin'.

As I made my way towards the stage and my guitar, I saw children's performer Shana Blueberryana. I said in my most genteel country gentleman-like manner, "I would surely be pleased as punch if you let me do the honor of wiping my fingers across your pretty, orange and white plaid dress."

As I commenced to rubbing, she quickly responded with a stinging left hook to my right jaw. The show must go on, however, so I jumped up on stage as Chief Jim Billie was explaining to the audience how when the temperature gets real hot in the swamp, "my people don't wear underwear," before going into "Old Ways Will Survive."

Before the slack-jawed audience even had a chance to catch their breath, I immediately kicked into a Cajun-sounding ditty that I wrote. It went something like " . . . *Nothin' can compare when a- pushin' comes to shovin' . . . nothin' shows that you care . . . like a good Dutch Oven . . .* "

I'm telling you, Mom, for a song that wasn't even noticed at this year's Will McLean Songwriting Festival, "Dutch Oven" sure caused quite a stir at White Springs.

After I saw it, next thing you know I'm approached in back of the amphitheater stage by folk legend Ramblin' Jack Elliot, bluegrass legend Vassar Clements as well as Florida State folk impresario Crawfish Ken.

"I smell a hit with that one, Raiford," said Ramblin' Jack. Meanwhile his fiancée, Ramblin' Jane, is begging me to teach her the chords.

"I predict," old' Craw proclaimed, "that 'Dutch Oven' will be the next 'Hold Back the Waters of Lake Okeechobee' of the Florida Folk Festival." Ramblin' Jack and Vassar both nodded in agreement.

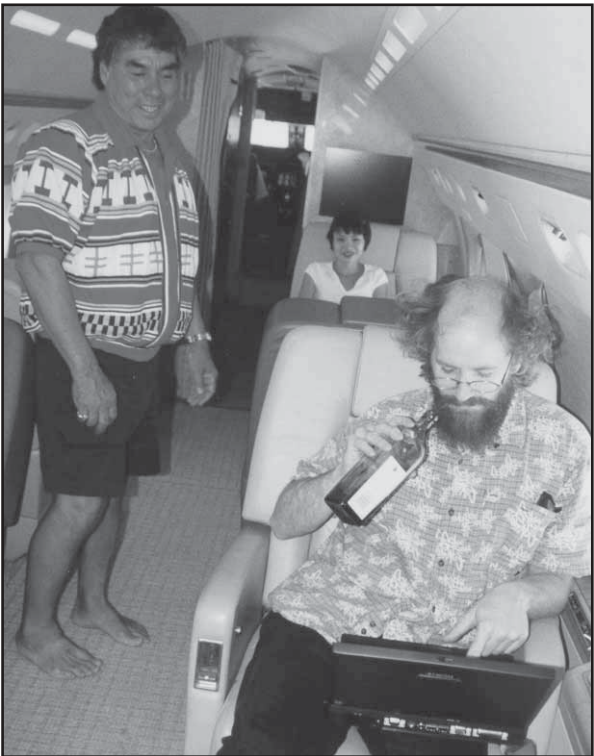
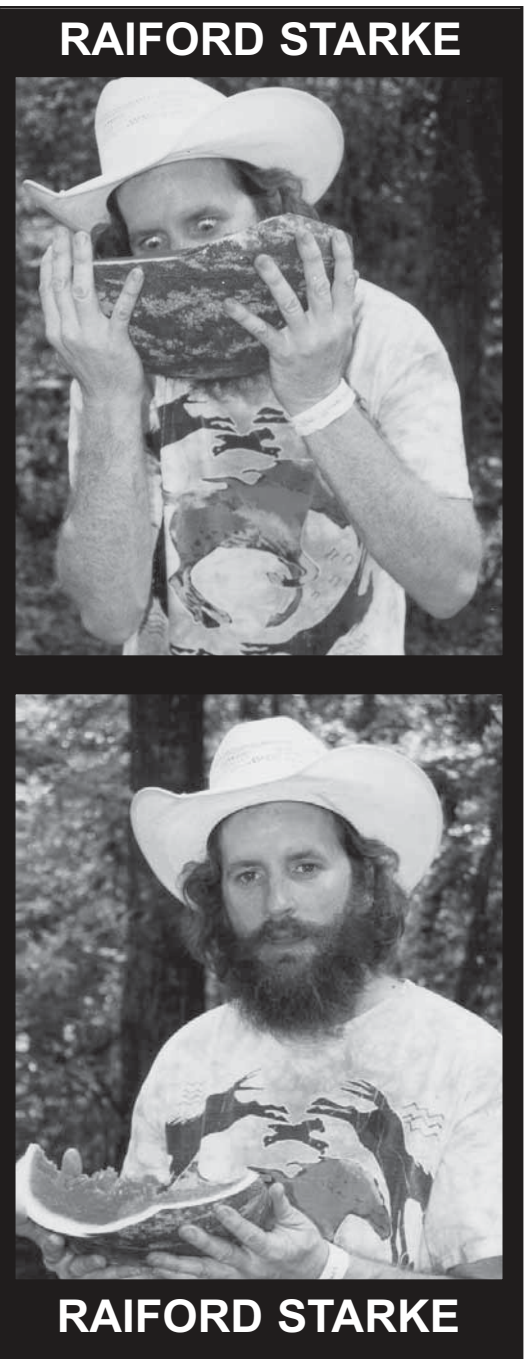
String Wizard John McEuen was suspicious of me from the start, however. "I would like to know," he said, " what's Raiford Starke's name doing on such a personal song about a kitchen appliance?"

I've got to give credit to you Ma. Ever since you told me the story about the Dutch Oven that Dad gave you the night I was conceived. I guess I owe you two a lot — at least half of the royalties — or would you settle for an honorable mention on the liner notes on the next Raiford Starke CD?

Well Mom, I've got to run now. This big bird is about to land, and I'm feeling mighty sick. Thanks to you making me write those letters from summer camp, I am now a world famous columnist for the *Seminole Tribune*.

Because of that, I have been asked to appear at the Native American Journalists Association party at Alligator Andy's and recite all of my writings to music — and I almost forgot — I uh, think Chief Billie might perform there too. He's my opening act. Anyway, take care, Mom.

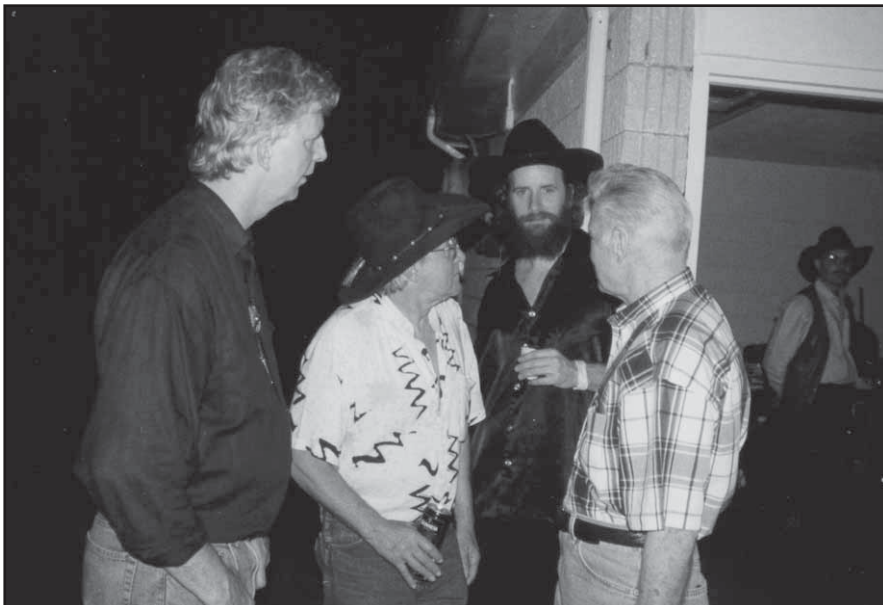
Love,
Your #1 Son
Raiford Montgomery Starke



Chief watches Starke at work on this column.



TAKE THAT!: Shana Blueberryana teaches Starke a lesson he soon forgot.



Ken Crawfish, Ramblin' Jack Elliott and Vassar Clements gape at Starke.



Hands dripping with watermelon, Starke makes the Marble Stage show.



LORENE GOPHER WANTS TO KNOW: "Who let this man in my chickee?"

Snakebite

Continued from page 1

But, as he was facing the public, lecturing, the snake crawled around the end of the rod and went straight to his hand. Suddenly, the snake was already near his arm.

Kenyon was still facing the public when he felt the teeth inside his right arm, just below his elbow. He quickly turned around but it was too late. He had already been bitten and the snake was not letting his arm go.

"I was looking at the people when I felt her teeth in my right arm," Kenyon said. "When I realized she had bitten me I tried to remove her, but she would not let go."

Trying to remain calm, Kenyon got the 2-½ foot snake out of his arm. Then, he placed her back in the box and told the audience the show would go on, but that he had to go. A member of the audience quickly ran out for help. Arturo Perez, a Safari tour guide, rushed in.

"I found John bleeding holding his right arm," said Perez. "He told me what had just happened and asked me for a tourniquet."

The tourniquet was placed around Kenyon's upper arm to slow circulation as some spectators watched in awe.

"The audience seemed confused. Some of them were not sure of what had just actually happened," said Perez.

Kenyon was quickly taken out of the show room and the Gift Shop manager, Maria Santiago drove him out of the Safari to meet the Seminole Police Department.

"We met the Seminole Police at the Seminole Farms, a few miles away from the Safari," said Santiago. "From there we drove him to the Shell Station where we were supposed to meet the Broward County Rescue unit," said the 22-year old manager.

The wait at the station, located about 19 miles away from the Safari, seemed endless.

"He got bit at 2:30 p.m.," said Santiago. "We got at the station by 3 p.m. and the fire rescue helicopter got there at 4 p.m. I was so worried about him that I did not want to wait for the helicopter. I wanted to drive him to the hospital and I am sure we would have gotten there quicker."

As the Boward County Fire Rescue unit was

on his way to the scene, Kimberly Royal, the Safari General Falconer, contacted Sheila Kenyon, the snakebit man's wife of 13 years.

"I was a little nervous and my first reaction was to want to see him," said Sheila. "But I know enough about snakes and I was thankful it was a copperhead and not a rattlesnake."

Sheila and John Kenyon, who met in middle school many years ago, have two children and a house full of reptiles.

"We have a rattlesnake, pythons, a boa con-structor and we simply love them," said Sheila. "We are fascinated with snakes and our children are not afraid of them. John deals with snakes every day and we knew this was gonna happen someday. I'm just glad it was a copperhead and not a rattlesnake."

Prior to joining the Safari's staff, Kenyon had worked with Wildlife Rescue, a group specializing in catching unwanted reptiles in people's backyards. As a child, he would read about exotic animals and would play with alligators and snakes in the wilderness of the Everglades.

"Copperheads are the least dangerous among the venom snakes," said Kenyon, adding that this is not the first time he has been bitten by a snake. "I have been bitten three times, but this is the first time I got bit by a venomous snake."

Ed Woods explained that every year, snakes in the U.S bite about 8,000 people.

"About 4,000 are rattle snakebites, 2,000 copperhead and 1,800 water moccasin bites," Woods says. "In the past 25 years keeping track of snakebites in the U.S., nobody has ever died as a result of a copperhead bite," he said.

That's why Woods did not worry when he heard the snake that had bitten Kenyon was

a Southern copperhead. However, Woods said this is the first serious snakebite at the Safari. "We had some close calls but as far as a serious bite goes, this is the first time," said Woods.

Kenyon, who is back to work in his normal routine of three shows a day said he will not stop working with snakes or alligators because reptiles are his passion.

While Kenyon was out, Andrew Necolettos, head of animal care at the Safari, replaced him.

The show must go on.

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- ♦ Take part in a new national leadership program and learn to be a leader in your community, train other young people to be leaders and how to create a business for yourself while doing it!

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See your Education Counselor or call 1-800-322-9186 for an application



*Her frybread is famous on the reservation.
Just don't tell anybody the recipe is really her grandfather's.*

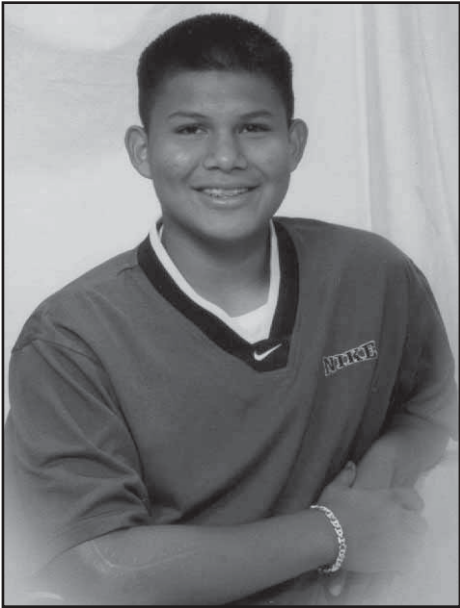
People like Doris Parker who are neighbors and friends will be coming around to ask for a small amount of your time. The investment of time to participate in Census 2000 means that the voice of our American Indian communities, our ancestors and generations of Indian people to come will be heard. If we do not participate, we may not receive the services and programs we need. In the circle of life, we speak not only for ourselves, but for all our Indian people.

United States
**Census
2000**

Generations are counting on this. Don't leave it blank.

Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday



Jarrid 5-15-85, 15 years old.

Happy Belated Birthday to my bullrider & princess, my May Babies. You both make me very proud. Love you, Mom.



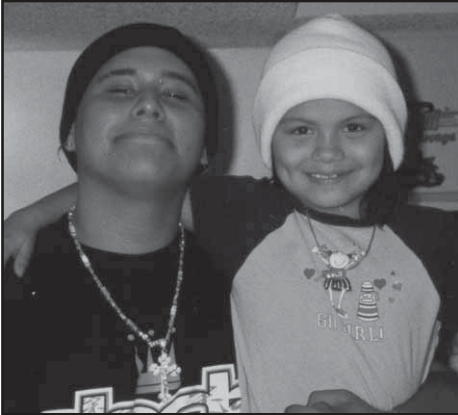
Stephanie 5-1-89, 11 years old.



Happy Birthday to Shelli Mae Osceola on June 14.



Happy Birthday Wes! Love Always and Forever, Valerie.



Happy Birthday Anahna! Love You Lots, Adahma, Audri, Mom, Dad, Shelli, Victor, Jesse, Wesley, Valerie.

Engagements



OKEECHOBEE — Ms. Josephine Villa of Okeechobee and Mr. Miguel Diaz of Stuart are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Micki Jolene Diaz to Christopher Dean Burton of Okeechobee, son of Willis and Sherry Burton.

The bride to be is a 1993 graduate of Okeechobee High School, attended Indian River Community College, and is currently employed by the Seminole Tribe of Florida as a teacher with the Preschool program. Micki was the 1995 Miss Seminole and is a member of the Bird clan.

The groom to be is a 1991 graduate of Okeechobee High School and is self-employed in the construction business.

The wedding has been set for Nov. 18, at 3 p.m. in Okeechobee at Oakview Baptist Church. A reception will follow at the KOA Campground and Resort.

Poems

My Pride & Joy

*My pride & joy Momma this scribe goes out to you,
There's not enough words to express my appreciation for all you do.*

*Momma you've been blessed with strength that can withstand the test of time,
There's no other like you & I'm thankful that you're mine.*

*You have kept the family together when other families Would fall apart,
Momma you're a real Seminole woman who has much courage & heart.*

*Momma I think about you each & every-day,
I know you're doing well I got much love for you in a unconditional way.*

*Keep enjoying yourself & continue to teach your grandchildren our native tongue,
Momma just as you are I know they'll grow to be respectable
Member's of the Unconquered Ones.*

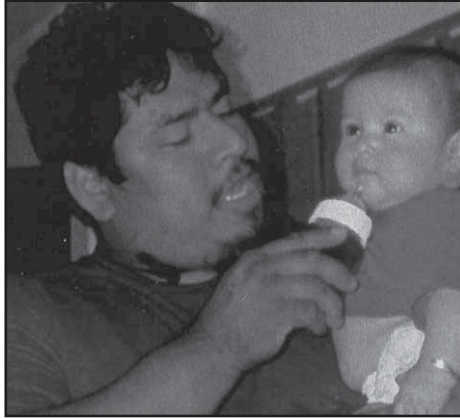
*I want to thank you for everything you have done & will Continue to do,
I know I can speak for all our family "Momma we love you."*

My pride & joy ain't no military secret about that, Momma you take good care lke will see you when I get back.
— **Ike T. Harjo**

Happy Father's Day



To Daddy George on our first Father's Day. Love Little Jamahl.



Happy Father's Day to Ramsey Osceola. From Bakari & Michelle.

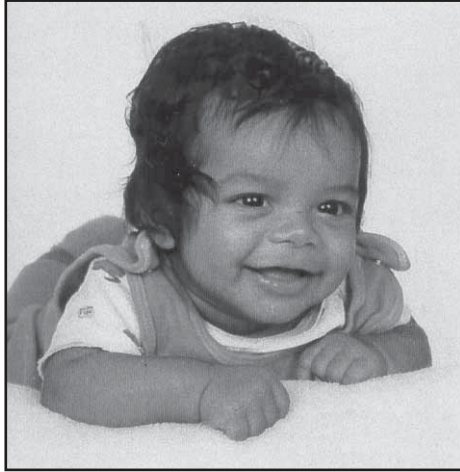


George Micco, both of us would like to make you something special for Father's Day...but you already are!
Happy Father's Day from Bakari and Michelle.



Happy Father's Day to my honey Vincho Osceola and also to Charlie J. Tiger II and Curtis K. Osceola. Camellis.

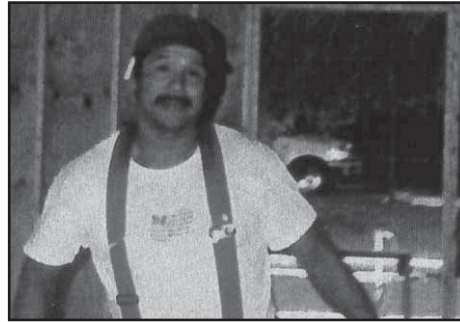
Happy Father's Day from Bakari



Bakari Jimahl "BJ" Micco would like to wish a very Happy Father's Day to Grandpa Bill Micco, Uncles Jerry, Michael, Joey, Danny, Pat, Johnny, Larry, Lonnie, Alan, Fred, Ryan, Billy, Ramsey, Jason, cousins Tony and Jeff Os. And also to Alex, Shane Buck and Gary Billie.



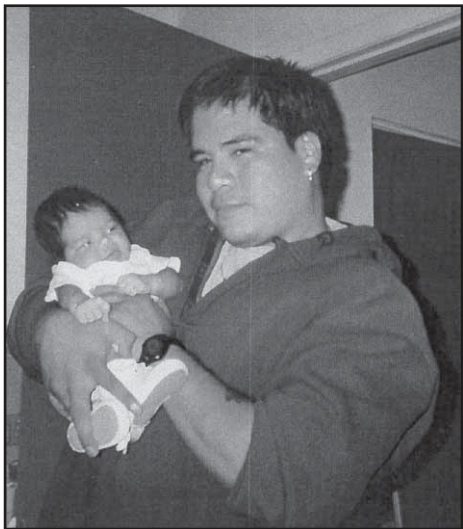
Ramsey



Larry O.



Happy Father's Day Dad, love Jarrid.



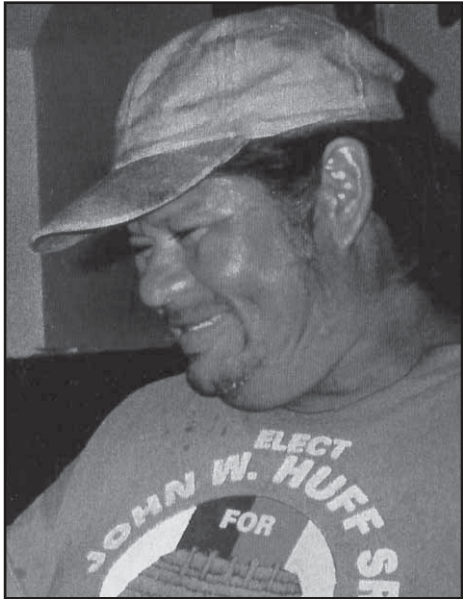
Dad, I took a look at myself in the mirror and I just thought I'd tell you...Nice Job! **Happy Father's Day.** Love Bakari Jamahl Micco.

Father's Day Message to Charles Anthony Osceola. I love you son — you've come a long way from my hand-some little boy. Sometimes I wonder why God gave me a perfect son, but I am very grateful through all your trials and tribulations. You stood tall, strong and proud.

I watched you grow. From the outside I watched you play basketball, softball, and bowl, and I've listen to you playing the piano. To this day you are still tall, strong and very proud. You're a beautiful young man and a perfect father, just like mine was. You never got to meet him, but you're just like him — always taking care of your kids and putting their needs first.

I love you son from the heart of my heart. Thank you so much for the beautiful grandchildren you have given me, **Taigey, Augulbe and Little Charles.** And, most of all, thank you God for giving me my son.

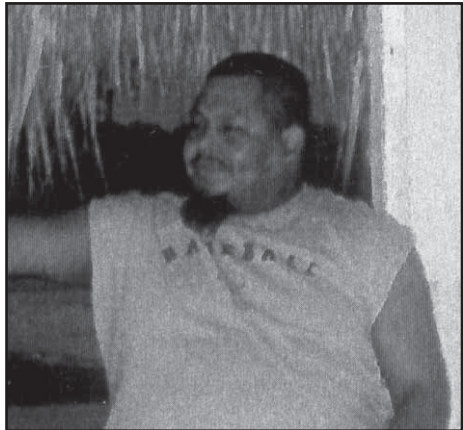
Happy Father's Day, I love you. Mom.



John O.



Jason



Ryan

Job Announcements

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

Position: Staff Nutritionist
Location: Health Department
Brighton
Opening: February 25, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$30,000/Yearly (Negotiable)
Plus Benefits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Position: Speech Language

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Position: Permanent Substitute Teacher
Location: Ahfachkee School - BC
Opening: April 13, 2000
Closing: April 27, 2000
Salary: Negotiable (Has Benefits)

Position: Benefits Coordinator
Location: Personnel Department,
Hollywood
Opening: February 22, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$28,000 Plus Benefits

Position: Museum Receptionist
Location: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki (Big Cypress)
Opening: May 29, 2000
Closing: June 12, 2000
Salary: Negotiable (Has Benefits)
Position: Secretary II
Location: Family Services Program
Opening: May 31, 2000
Closing: Until Filled
Salary: \$10 per hour Plus Benefits

Position: Office Clerk Part Time
Location: Utilities - Hollywood
Opening: May 31, 2000
Closing: June 15, 2000
Salary: \$8 per hour - No Benefits

Position: Youth Center Attendant
Location: Juvenile Justice
Opening: May 31, 2000
Closing: June 14, 2000
Salary: \$6.20 per hour - Plus Benefits

Happy Belated Mother’s Day

Thanks to our Board Representative Delores Jumper, mothers of the Immokaee Community came out to enjoy Mother’s Day dinner at Lozano’s Restaurant on Saturday, May 13.

It was really nice to see most of the mothers

with their families enjoying dinner. And of course not prepared by themselves and cleaning up afterwards was a nice break from the daily routines of all busy moms everywhere.



Delores Jumper (r) and daughters Nina Frias and Gwen Garcia enjoyed their dinners.



Immokalee Council Representative Elaine Aguilar with her mother Lucy Johns and sister Jean Martinez, daughter and grandchildren.

Notices

The National Organization for Women – June 30 through July 2, at the Fontainebleau Hilton Hotel in Miami Beach. For more information, visit the web site at www.noworg.com or call (202) 628-8NOW, or (305) 235-0922.

128th Annual Quapaw Powwow- July 1 – 3, 8:30 a.m. Golf Tournament (Monday only), 8 p.m. Grand Entry, Inter-Tribal Dancing. For more information call the Quapaw Tribe at (918) 542-1853.

Alutiiq Activity Book - call or fax for free samples (858) 456-1348.
<http://www.pospub.com/indian>.

Titanic Exhibit Extended
ORLANDO — Due to the popularity of its Florida Residents Program, Titanic ~ The Exhibition is reinstating the special offer through June 30.

Titanic ~ The Exhibition is the world’s first permanent attraction dedicated to life aboard the fateful oceanliner. Visitors with a valid Florida ID save \$4 off admission through June 30. Titanic ~ The Exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m. – 9 p.m. For more information About Titanic ~ The Exhibition or to inquire about group discounts, call (407) 248-1166.

It’s more than western wear

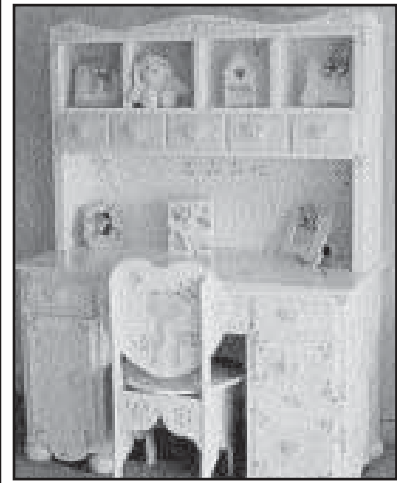


. . . It’s a way of life.



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Mosquito Virus Alert

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and the Florida Department of Health (DOH), along with other state and local agencies, are working to detect viral diseases spread by mosquitoes to humans or animals.

Spring rains often result in increased mosquito populations, which can increase the risk of viral diseases, such as St. Louis encephalitis (SLE) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). Officials are also on the lookout for West Nile virus (WNV), which was identified last fall in humans and animals in the northeastern states, but has not been identified in any southern state. Department of Health Secretary Robert G. Brooks, M.D. said.

Health care providers and laboratories are required to report all suspect or confirmed cases of arbovirus encephalitis and malaria to their county health department. As a service to health care providers, the DOH Laboratory offers arbovirus (e.g. SLE, EEE, dengue and WNV) and malaria testing for patients with appropriate symptoms. Arbovirus infections in people can cause headache, fever, dizziness, confusion, abnormal movements and coma.

“Horses are particu-

larly susceptible to some strains of encephalitis, and with the movement of horses this time of year into and out of Florida, we want all horse owners to be extra vigilant in taking protective measures against possible outbreaks of Eastern equine encephalitis or West Nile virus,” said Agricultural Commissioner Bob Crawford.

Crawford urges horse owners to make sure that their animals are vaccinated against Eastern equine encephalitis and to watch for and report any signs of neurologic illness to their veterinarian.

Anyone noticing an increase in dead wild birds should contact their regional Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission office, which is monitoring this situation. The FDACS Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory will be including the WNV test in their encephalitis testing panel.

For additional information, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Animal Industry at (850) 410-0900, or the Division of Agricultural Environmental Services at (850) 488-3731; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (850) 487-3796; or the Florida Department of Health at (850) 245-4401.

In Memory



Tribal member Adam Billie, 19, was involved in a fatal car accident on June 11. According to the Florida Highway Patrol, Billie apparently lost control of his vehicle while driving west on Alligator Alley in the early morning hours.

Adam, who had recently graduated from high school, was a gifted athlete who played football and basketball, and was planning on attending Haskell Indian School in Kansas.

The *Seminole Tribune* would like to join The Seminole Tribe in sending condolences to the family of Adam Billie.

Deadlines

Seminole Tribune

July 7 Issue • Deadline June 23
July 28 Issue • Deadline July 14
August 4 Issue • Deadline August 18

Attention Tribal Members

The 2000 decal will expire on June 30. Beginning Monday, June 12, you may obtain the 2001 decal from the following locations and clerks:

Big Cypress – Cecelia Tigertail.
Brighton/Tampa – Linda S. Tommie. Hollywood – Ericka T. Cypress. Immokalee – Sheila Aguilar.

Present the following to the clerks:

- 2000 registration or title to the vehicle currently driving; There is a \$5 charge for research/copy of your registration.
- Show proof (binder, card, or certificate) of insurance.
- Driver’s License of primary driver(s).

The above must have the Seminole Tribal member listed first as primary owner, driver, insured, etc.

Note:

- Pre-typed 2001 registrations were received. Some registrations have “Registration Stop” with notation “License Suspension or Auto Insurance

Suspension” which must be cleared and documented through the State Agency.

- Lost/Stolen plate must be reported to the local Seminole Police Dept.; present a written report (not a case number) and pay a fee of \$25 for a replacement of the plate.
- Replacement (no fee) will be processed provided they are turned in, for SI plates with SI1001 to SI1899 and for those damaged, etc.
- The limit for SI plates has been increased to five per family and three per single person. If you have plates already assigned to you which shows no activity, update them by renewal or provide a lost/stolen plate report and fee. Any additional plates given will be based on current record.

Should you have any questions, contact the Tribal Clerk’s Office in Hollywood at (954) 967-3465.

Someone You Know May be serving an Illegal Sentence

- Were they sentenced for a crime committed between 1995 and 1997?
- Would they like a chance to be re-sentenced or released early?
- Will friends or family help they hire a private lawyer to fight for them?

If so, recent developments in the law may permit them to to be re-sentenced for time served. this means a lawyer may not be able to:

- *Get them out:
- * Shorten their sentence; or
- * modify their sentence.

Call us for a free consultation! To help we will need:

- * The data of the offense for which they were sentenced;
- * Their date of birth;
- *The correct spelling of their name;
- * Where they were sentenced; and
- * A copy of the disposition for the case under which they are serving their sentence

Guy Seligman, P.A.
320 S.E. 9th Street
Fort Lauderdale, Fl. 33316

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The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should be based solely upon advertisement. Guy J. Seligman worked as a Certified Legal Intern in both the State Attorney and Public Defenders offices in Broward County; he has been in private practice for twelve years. He graduated from Nova Southeastern University Law School in 1987. and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1988. He is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys. Adam Neidenberg is a former Assistant State Attorney for over two years. He graduated from Hofstra University School of law in 1966 and was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1997. Together, both attorneys have defended thousands of criminal cases and concentrate on criminal defense representations.



The 48th annual edition of the Florida Folk Festival, the oldest such event in the country, once again demonstrated the state folk arts community's unique relationship with The Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Held at the peaceful Stephen Foster State Folk Culture Park in White Springs, the Memorial Day weekend features many contributions by the Tribe. And, most of it starts at the E-To-Lit-Ke (Seminole Family Camp).

Tribal Chairman James Billie and members of the Tribe built the tree-shaded chickees for cultural presentations sponsored by Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, including Madeline Tongkeamha of Brighton Reservation, demonstrating patchwork, Seminole sewing, and design; Martha B. Jones of Brighton demonstrating Seminole beadwork; Agnes N. Cypress of Immokalee, demonstrating traditional doll making; and Stanlo Johns, of Brighton, demonstrating roping and Seminole ranch traditions.

Brighton's Lorene Gopher came to demonstrate fry-bread cooking, but a fire ban changed her menu to watermelon.

In addition, the Folk Festival featured over 250 performances daily, including Chief Jim Billie -- a member of the state Folk Arts Council -- and his band, as well as countless other country performers who make the Florida Folk Festival one of the showcase events in the nation.

PHOTOS BY PETER B. GALLAGHER AND DAN McDONALD



Florida Folk Festival





B.C. Rep. Mondo Tiger congratulates students.



Big Cypress graduates present a colorful scene of caps, gowns, and . . . teddy bears.



The Creation Story, see bottom left.

The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

Special Edition June 16, 2000

School's Out!



Young Jesse Mitchell holds his award certificate.

Summer Program Available For Kids

HOLLYWOOD — All 8-16 year olds, get ready for summer! Join old friends and make new ones at the Young People's Summer College program presented by Broward Community College Continuing Education Department.

Each 6-week class — held at the BCC north and south campuses — is \$65. With 47 different subjects to choose from, we have something for everyone starting June 26 — Aug. 8. Classes run from 8:30 a.m. — through 3:30 p.m.

The classes include: 99th Squadron, Adventures in Aquatic Science, American Sign Language, Best Babysitters, Bowling "Right Down Your Alley," Calligraphy, Cartoon Safari, Cheernastics, Chess, Computer Basics, Computer Graphics, Cool Science, Crafty Ideas, Dough Art, Girls of the New Millennium, Golf, Humorous Writing, Ice Skating, Internet Research & Web Page Design, Jazz/Hip-Hop, Karate, Kayak Paddling, Keyboarding, Kite Making, Magic Made Easy, Math Magic, Memory Power, Musical Instrument Instruction, Painting, Paper Mache Creatures, Peer Counseling, Play Production, Pop-Up Books, Pottery, Reading-Golden Nuggets, Sailing, Shutterbugs, Spanish, Summer Fun with Food, Tennis, TV Commercials, Movie Extras & Modeling, Tye Dye, Batik & Fabric Painting, Voice, Windsurfing, Word Processing, and Writing From Within.

Please call Shirley Boudousquie, Program Developer at 963-8815 for additional information.



HANDS FULL: Alexia Jumper brings a trophy and certificate home to start the summer.



Graduates Charlie Tiger III and La'Toyia Thomas.

Students' Reading Shows Dramatic Improvement

By E. Tiger

BIG CYPRESS — Students attending the Ahfachkee School on the Big Cypress Seminole Indian Reservation recently received the results of their Spring Standardized Achievement Testing for grades third through twelve.

Reading, which is the school's first priority, was the first subject to be analyzed, followed by other subjects such as language arts and math. Students who attend the school on the average have gained approximately two levels during the course of the present school year.

The school's reading test results show a dramatic increase when compared with the last two years of testing. The Stanford 9 test, which was used at Afachkee, is commonly regarded as one of the most challenging tests to be given to students. But Principal Patrick Gaffney, Ph.D. said, "By giving our students these challenges, they will just try even harder to demonstrate that they can successfully meet the challenges put forth."

The State-of-the Art school, which has 142 students attending daily, holds grades pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Staff officials and community members at the school decided when making the School Improvement Plan that each teacher would have their own personnel teacher's aide.

This would ensure that each student at Ahfachkee would get one-on-one teaching that would help him or her succeed. In addition, culture programs, such as Native Language classes, beadwork, and sewing were also implemented into the school's curriculum to help preserve the students' native traditions.

James Whitman, the school's Team Leader for the BIA, recently spoke with Ahfachkee Director of School Operations, Sharon Byrd Gaffney, Ph.D.

He said the Ahfachkee School was the only school in the agency whose test scores are on the increase. The school, which also recently received national recognition for being selected as this year's Title 1 Award recipient, is bringing more attention to itself than ever before and is more than likely to keep improving while Tribal Council and BIA approve funds for the school.

Hollywood Students Perform *The Creation Story*

HOLLYWOOD — Youths from the Hollywood Seminole Pre-School gathered at the Tribal Office Auditorium to perform their version of *The Creation Story* and to receive diplomas and recognition from Hollywood Representatives Max Osceola and Carl Baxley recently.

Joe North, who narrated the *The Creation Story*, introduced the 19 Pre-school graduates who presented themselves before the crowd by speaking in their native language (Micosukee) and saying their clan, which their costume represented. This was followed by a group singing 'Twinkle,

Twinkle Little Star' and 'Wheels on the Bus.'

The Creation Story, which was the theme for the night's performance, was about the Seminole's clan system, which is vital to this day. The unique system means that any child born of a Seminole mother is in the mother's clan. There are a total of eight Seminole Clans: Panther, Bear, Deer, Wind, Bigtown, Bird, Snake, and Otter Clan.

Clans can become extinct if the last female in the clan passes. Many clans, such as the Alligator Clan, have become extinct over time. But, with culture oriented schools such as the Hollywood Pre-School and Ahfachkee School, youths are finding their identity in a diverse society, while preserving their culture at the same time.

The following are the Pre-school graduates for the class of 2000:

Tiffany Ann Baker, Jean Venise Capricen, Brittany Leah Cox, Joslyn Demyen Cypress, Luis Escobar Jr., Jonathan Charles Frank, Justin Willie Frank, Maleah Lynn Issac, Phillip Eric Jones, Konrad Keko Jones, Kelton Kelbert Josh, Alexis Jumper, Clarissa Little Panther Jumper, Cheyenne Susan Kippenberger, Jesse Emmett Mitchell, Brantley Evin Osceola, Trewston Blue Pierce, Kamari Renee Tommie and Joseph John.



FROGGY HEADWARE: Joslyn Cypress and Alexia Jumper.

Immokalee Library Open For Fun

IMMOKALEE — During the school year, students in Immokalee always kept the staff at the library busy. After school, students came running to the library to get help on their homework. They ran because they knew as soon they finished their homework, it was snack time! Counselor Norita Yzaguirre always took the time to provide snacks on her own.

Children also enjoyed working on the library computer. At first they could only play educational games, but now they can play *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*. One time the kids joined together and actually won!

So if you're in the area and you want to learn something please stop by.



Jessica Osceola wants to be a cyber millionaire!



OH MY GOODNESS: Meleah Isaac surprised.

Pre-Kindergartners Graduate

BRIGHTON — Proud parents, family members and teachers gathered at the gymnasium May 31, to celebrate the graduation of the Pre School Class of 2000.

The program opened with the salute to the Seminole Flag done by the seniors and the salute to the American flag by the juniors. The program continued with the seniors performing 'Old McDonald' completely in the Creek language.

Many individuals were recognized for support and involvement with the program. A special award was given to Johnnie Johns for her 31 years of time and devotion. Johns started with the Pre School in 1965 and retired in 1996. She donated the photos shown on the video presentation during intermission.

Each graduate shared personal information about himself or herself:



Emery Stoney Fish



J.T. Smith

Hi my name is **Emery Stoney Fish**, I am the 5-year-old son of Emery Fish. My favorite food is Power Rangers Soup. When I grow up I want to work with my Dad. My favorite area of school is the science area.

Hi my name is **JT Aaron Smith**, I am the 4-year-old son of Jamie Smith and Crystal Huff. My favorite food is Frosted Flakes and my favorite area of the school is the science area. When I grow up I want to be a builder.



Maude Danielle Gopher



Rosa Jane Urbina

Hi my name is **Maude Danielle Gopher**, I am the 5-year-old daughter of Matthew and Kim Gopher. My favorite food is chicken nuggets and when I grow up I want to be an animal doctor. My favorite area of school is the housekeeping area.

Hi my name is **Rosa Jane Urbina**, I am the 5-year-old daughter of Jesse and Emma Jane Urbina. My favorite food is spaghetti and my favorite area of school is the art area. When I grow up I want to be a nurse.



Desiree Billie

Hi, my name is **Desiree Billie**. I am the 5-year-old daughter of Albert and Judy Snow. My favorite foods are hamburgers, hot dogs, French fries and ice cream. My favorite area of school is the area in the kitchen where I can cook for my Daddy and dress up and play with dolls. When I grow up I want to be a model or teacher.



Paul Billie

Hi my name is **Paul Billie**, I am the 5-year-old son of Nadine Tommy and Tony Billie. My favorite food is carrots and when I grow up I want to do construction. My favorite area of school is the art area.



Randy Shore

Hi my name is **Randy Shore**, I am the 4-year-old son of Elton Shore and Farrah Jones. My favorite food is an egg sandwich and my favorite area of school is the science area. When I grow up I want to work with recreation.



Destiny Nunez

Hi my name is **Destiny Jade Nunez**, I am the five year old daughter of Dallas and Deanna Nunez. My favorite food is green beans and my favorite area of school is the art area. When I grow up I want to be a doctor.

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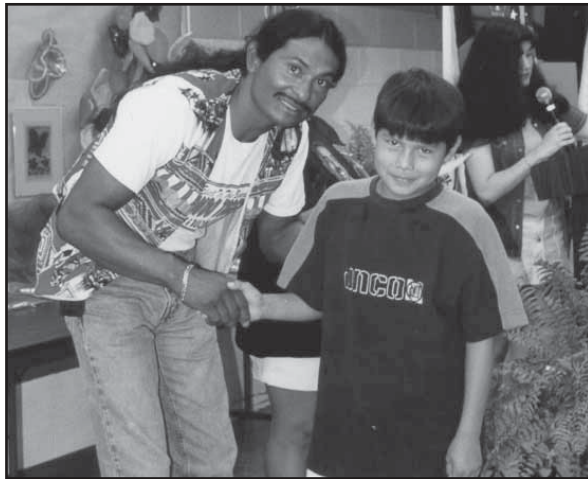


Ahfachkee Awards

Pre-K — Perfect Punctuality — Rayel Billie, Tyler Cypress. **Perfect Attendance** — Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Tyler Cypress, Bradley Osceola. **Perfect Attendance for the Year** — Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Rayel Billie, Tyler Cypress.

1st Grade Awards — All E's — Jonathan Robbins, Catlen Tommie, Kahna Jumper, Kelsey Washington. **All S's** — Ashley Escobar, Klayton Sanders, Morning Star Webster. **Perfect Attendance** — Dannee Billie, Shauna Billie, Ryan Cypress, Dayton Hall. **Perfect Punctuality** — Akoi Billie, Dannee Billie, Shauna Billie, Ryan Cypress, Daylon Hall, Dayton Hall, Kelsey Lo, Klayton Sanders. **Year Long Award for S's** — Akoi Billie, Danna Billie, Kahna Jumper, Klayton Sanders. **Year Long Award For E's** — Cateon Tommie, Jonathan Robbins.

2nd Grade Awards — Perfect Attendance — fourth quarter — Clayton Hall, Eric Sanders. **All Year Perfect Attendance — Perfect Punctuality — fourth quarter** — Clayton Hall. **Academic Excellence & Honor Roll** — Hali Garcia, Chebon Gooden-Harden, Clayton Hall. **E and S Honor Roll**



Future Tribal leader Alexander Cypress greets current Tribal leader Mondo Tiger.

— Rubanne Alexander, Brannon Billie, Natasha Billie, Eric Sanders, Danielle Webster. **Excellence in Culture and Language** — Rubi Anne Alexander, Brannon Billie, Hali Garcia, Clayton Hall, Kelcie Jumper. **Most Improved in Culture and Language** — Alfred Billie, Justin Billie, Neemi Billie, Robin



ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR GONE: Talisha Leach.

Landin, Eric Sanders. **Excellence in Reading** — Brannon Billie, Hali Garcia, Chebon Gooden.

3rd Grade Awards — Perfect Attendance — Cody Billie. **Fourth Quarter** — Ronnie Billie,



Moses Jumper Jr. rewards young Dannee Billie.

Stephanie Hall. **Fourth Quarter — Perfect Punctuality** — Cody Billie, Stephanie Hall. **Fourth Quarter — A Honor Roll** — Stephanie Hall. **All Year & Fourth Quarter — B Honor Roll** — Cody Billie, Micco Billie, Lauren Bowers, Andrea Osceola.

4th Grade Awards — A Honor Roll — Melissa Billie, Serena Grean, Lindsey King, Rita Otero, Tabitha Raid. **B Honor Roll** — Dawna, Kayla, Matthew Billie, Obadiah Osceola, Dion Sanders, Alex Tommie. **Perfect Attendance** — Daniel Bullard, Lindsey King, Tabitha Reid, Dion Sanders, Alex Tommie. **B Honor Roll** — Dawna, Kayla, Dion Sanders, Alex Tommie. **Perfect Punctuality** — Matthew Billie, Nathan Billie, Daniel Bullard, J.R. Buster, Lydia Hernandez, Charlie Osceola, Justin Osceola, Tabitha Reid.



HANDSHAKE: Mondo Tiger and L. T. Balentine.

5th and 6th Grades — Perfect Attendance — Jessalyn Balentine, Little Tiger Balentine, Klaressa Osceola. **Perfect Punctuality** — Sonny Billie, Sawena Otero, Kaylynn Pewo. **A Honor Roll** — Little Tiger Balentine, Klaressa Osceola. **B Honor Roll** — April Billie, Katherine Billie, Summer Billie, Sunny Billie, Benny Hernandez, Jade Jim, Sawena Otero, Kaylyn Pewo, Jodi Simone. **A Honor Roll All Year** — Klaressa Osceola.

7th and 8th Grade — Perfect Punctuality — Wilson Bowers, Meredith Bullard, Victoria Hernandez, Paige Osceola. **Perfect Attendance** — Meredith Bullard, Victoria Hernandez, Talisha Leach, Paige Osceola. **B Honor Roll** — Shena, Wilson Bowers, Victoria Hernandez, Paige Osceola. **Perfect Punctuality** — Victoria Hernandez. **Perfect Attendance** — Victoria Hernandez. **B Honor Roll** — Shena, Victoria Hernandez. **A Honor Roll** — Wilson Bowers.

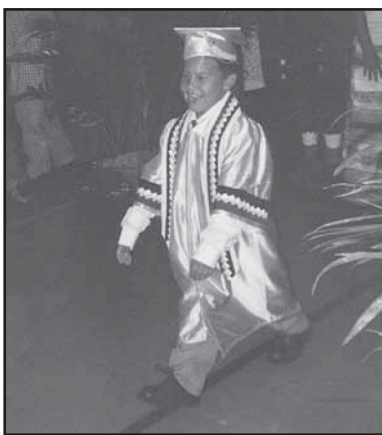
Ahfachkee Preschool Graduates



Stevie Billie



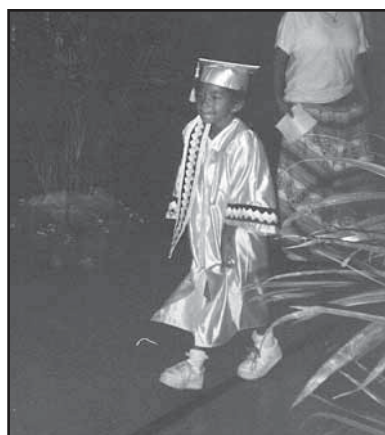
Karlito Wargolet



Tucamah Robbins



Ragan Osceola



Monique Jimmie



Jalen Cypress

The Class Of 2000

The following are the remaining profiles of the graduating seniors.

Alex Tommie — is the daughter of Irene Tommie and Jacob Osceola. She will graduate from Afachkee, which she has attended on and off for the last two years.

“I have attended several schools because I am easily bored,” Alex says. “But, I like Afachkee because it is independent. You set your own pace.”

Alex, 18, says her hobby is working out. She is training in the Master Swimmer program at the Fort Lauderdale Swimming Hall of Fame. She got her start in swimming while attending Admiral Farragut Academy in St. Petersburg. After graduation she plans to attend the Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale, majoring in Computer Multi Media Web Design.

She says she is both excited and exhausted. She will reside in Hollywood while attending the Art Institute. When asked about her experience in high school, she replied, “It was both good and bad. I had very different experiences, and definitely viewed them as learning ones. But, you can’t win without losing and what doesn’t kill you will make you stronger.”

“I finished high school for my Mother. I never wanted to quit because it was the least I could do for my Mom.”

She also wished to thank her “mentor” Ronnie Jimmie and Marissa Macelli.

Dusti Jo Bert — is the daughter of Minnie Tigertail and Ernie Bert and sister of Jody Bert. Dusti Jo, 17, will graduate from Afachkee, which she has attended since third grade. Dusti Jo lives at Big Cypress with her parents and brothers.

Her hobby is art and after graduation is considering an art school in New Mexico. She may aim to become an art teacher or an artist.

She says her experience in high school was a good one and her fondest memory, which seems to be universal, is “graduation.”

Her philosophy is that all people should respect one another. When asked about a motivating force to succeed her response was, “I did this for my Dad. He always wanted me to succeed, to go as far as I can. To do the things he never could.”

Rita Otero — is the daughter of Matt and Yolanda Otero. She will graduate from Afachkee, where she went just over two years. Rita, 17, also attended Clewiston, but said she likes the small classes and student/instructor interaction at Afachkee.

After graduation she plans to attend Florida Gulf Coast University, and although undecided about her major, cites a special interest in journalism. She has had articles published in the *Seminole Tribune* and the *Afachkee Times*.

She will reside in the dormitories at FGCU. Her high school experience was a good one, adding

her fondest memory is “graduating.”

She wishes to thank her mom “for putting up with me and helping me.” Her motivating factor throughout school was her mom and dad and “being able to say that I completed high school.”

Jody Bert — is the son of Minnie Tigertail and Ernie Bert. He is graduating from Afachkee, which he has attended for two years. Jody, 21, lives at Big Cypress with his parents and his brothers and sister. After graduation he would like to “relax” this summer and probably work in the family business and then possibly go to college in Utah.

“I like the mountains, I like cold and the snow,” Jody says.

Jody’s main hobby is basketball, and he spends his off time at the gymnasium at Big Cypress. He has not decided on a major at this time, but states his high school experience was a good one and that he wants to thank his parents most.

“My parents told me to never let anyone get to me,” Jody says. “They always kept on me to stay in school.”

Cory Wilcox — is the son of Danny Wilcox and Jeanette Cypress. Cory, 18, graduates from Glades Day School. An outstanding student, and recipient of the Bright Future Scholarship, Wilcox, maintained a grade point average of 3.24.

Cory was a National Honor Society member for three years, and participated in baseball and football in his junior and senior year. At a young age Cory was diagnosed with a heart problem that delayed his participation in sports. Yet, despite a broken ankle in his senior year, he was named “Most Improved Player,” and will play baseball at Florida Atlantic University, where he starts in the fall.

Cory is undecided about his major, but is seriously contemplating pre-med courses at FAU. His interest in medicine stems from his working experience at the clinic at Big Cypress, where he has been employed since his freshman year.

“My high school experience has been a very good one,” Cory says. “Education was always a priority. My philosophy is just don’t procrastinate. Get the work done.”

“I am very head strong and I set my goals a long time ago. I was not going to let anything get in my way. I’m going to pass no matter what.”

His fondest high school memory, he says in advance, will be his trip to Mexico, which he began May 31.

Dustin Tiger — is the son of Rebecca and Martin Tiger, and graduates from Mount Verde Academy in Orlando. Dustin, 17, played basketball for four years and soccer for one year.

“Besides the fact the school was located in the middle of nowhere, the academy is more disciplined and organized than most schools,” he said.

His best experience, however, is graduation. He will attend Bacone College in Northeastern Oklahoma majoring in education. He has no other plans this summer than to “hang out” and be with his friends and family.

Dustin’s incentive to stay focused was “being able to say that I did it.”

“I believe that kids need to learn self control, learn to control their emotions,” he says. “They need to find a way to vent their anger and always be positive.”

Dustin wishes to thank his government teacher Mr. Carroll, for setting an example of how you should live your life. And most of all “my parents, family and friends for all their support.”

We wish to acknowledge the following graduates, who were unavailable for interviews:

Congratulations to **Melissa Billie**, **Matthew Billie** of Big Cypress; and **Adam Billie** of Oklahoma.

If we inadvertently missed a graduating senior, please contact the *Tribune* at (954) 967-3416.

PLANTATION — On June 11, Charlie Tiger III, Ronald Drake, La’Toyia Thomas, and Megan Yescas graduated from the American Heritage School American Academy.

The rainy weather did little to dampen the enthusiasm of the graduating students as they received their diplomas during the commencement ceremony, held at the Worship Center, across the street from American Heritage.

Yescas, Bird Clan, lives in the Miami area. She plans on going to college and will be spending her summer working in the youth program. On the day of her graduation Yescas wanted to thank her mother, Deborah Yescas.

Charlie Tiger, Otter Clan, includes college in his future plans. Tiger would like to thank Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola, Representative Carl Baxley, President Mitchell Cypress, Chairman James Billie, “everybody at Broadcasting,” and mother Ginger Tucker and the whole family.



La’Toyia Thomas

The graduation was also attended by **Marlon Foster**, Otter Clan, who had graduated from sixth grade at Wesley Foster only hours earlier. Foster would like to thank Doris Osceola, Eddie Foster, and Kim Osceola.



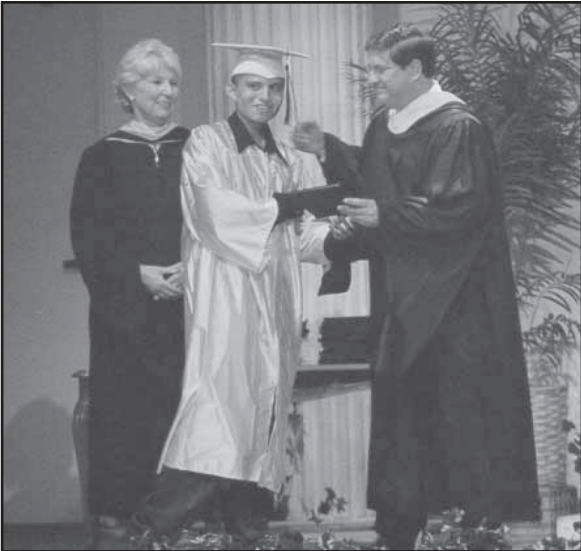
Charlie Tiger and Ronnie Drake



Marion Foster



Megan Yescas



Charlie Tiger

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