



POWWOW DRUM PANORAMA: A wide-angle view of the Meskwaki Nation Drum at the 30th Annual Seminole Tribal Fair. For complete Tribal festival season coverage, see next issue's Special Festival Section.



# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

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Chairman Billie, Tampa Mayor Greco, the check.

## Tribe Backs War Memorial

**By E. Bowers**  
**TAMPA** — On the riverfront site of the future Fort Brooke Park, Tribal Chairman James Billie presented Dick Greco, Mayor of Tampa, with a check signifying the Seminole Tribe's \$225,000 pledge for the construction of the Fort Brooke Memorial.  
In remarks before a crowd of media and citizens, the Chairman recalled the Seminoles' long and successful association with the City of Tampa.  
Tampa Reservation Council Rep. Richard Henry and citizens from the Tampa Reservation community also were present for the event and Bobby Henry spoke of the tragic history of the site as he offered the opening invocation.  
To be built within the proposed Fort Brooke Park, the memorial will detail the tumultuous period of the Seminole Wars of Removal by presenting the perspectives of both the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the U.S. Army. The Fort Brooke Memorial marks the first time a Florida city has honored combatants on both sides of the major conflict in such an even-handed manner.

See BROOKE, page 3

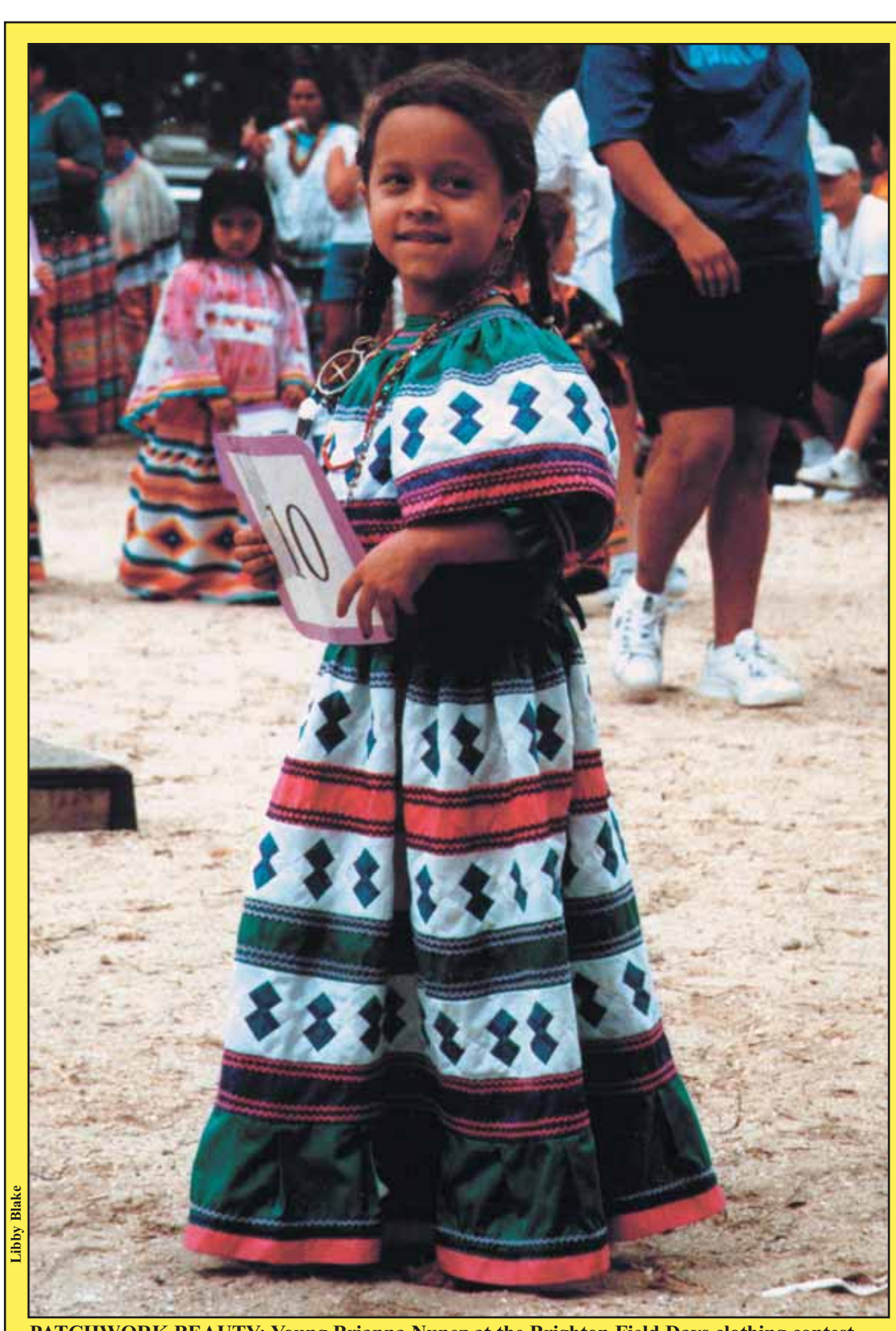
## Council Increases Budgets \$2.8 Million

**By Charles Flowers**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — When is a freeze not a freeze? When it's not your freeze.  
After a memorandum from Government Operations Officer Tim Cox announcing a freeze on spending until the start of the next fiscal year, the Council agreed to increase spending a total of \$2.8 million.  
The funds, authorized and unanimously approved by the five voting members Feb. 15, would give an additional \$300,000 over the amount already budgeted to programs administered through Vice Chairman Mitchell Cypress, \$1 million to the Hollywood Reservation, and \$1.5 million to Big Cypress.  
"I'm primarily concerned with the non-direct support programs," Cox said, explaining his memo.

See BUDGET, page 3

## Festival Season Off And Running

**■ Special 4-Festival Section Next Issue**  
**By Libby Blake**  
**SEMINOLE COUNTRY** — Seminole festival season got off to a running start with the 30th Annual Pow-Wow and Rodeo held at the rodeo grounds on the Hollywood Reservation Feb. 8 – 11. The festivities then moved north to the Brighton Reservation for the 63rd Annual Arts and Crafts Festival and PRCA rodeo.  
The season continues this weekend, March 2 – 4, with Discover Native America (DNA) Pow wow at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg and the 7th Annual Native American Celebration Powwow honoring Ruby Tiger Osceola's 105th birthday at the Tampa Seminole Reservation, March 15-18.  
The *Seminole Tribune* will publish a Special Section in our next issue, March 23, with photos and stories from all four Tribal festivals.  
Native American dancers, drummers, and performers from throughout Indian Country and Mexico make the trek for the Seminole Tribe of Florida's month-long festival season and this year has been no exception.  
Always a crowd favorite, the Aztec Fire  
See FESTIVAL page 13



PATCHWORK BEAUTY: Young Brianna Nunez at the Brighton Field Days clothing contest.

## Buffy Brings Buzz To DNA Powwow

■ March 3-4, Eckerd College

**ST. PETERSBURG** — Buffy Sainte-Marie's first Florida appearance in more than eight years has caused quite a commotion on the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Discover Native America (DNA) hotline. The legendary folksinger is the headliner for the Tribe's DNA Powwow and Music Festival, March 3-4 on the campus of Eckerd College here.  
"The phone has been ringing off the hook with questions about Buffy," says DNA hotline (1-800-535-2228) supervisor Pamela Green. "They want to know when she is coming to town and when she is going to play, will she sign autographs, will she visit their school, on and on and on."

The first Native American Oscar winner, Sainte-Marie wrote "Up Where We Belong" for the movie *Officer And A Gentleman*. Buffy will present a three-hour lecture on her innovative "Cradleboard" teaching project at the Eckerd Dendy-McNair Auditorium beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday (March 3) morning. Manager Tom Fijal said he will try to bring



Discover Native America

her out to the "American Indian Music Jam" at Ferg's Sports Bar and Grill that same evening, "but I can't promise she'll get up to play. I know her band loves to jam."  
Buffy's main stage performance is scheduled for 3 p.m. Sunday (March 4) afternoon. She will arrive in Tampa Bay Friday morning, after an all-night trip from Hawaii. Her schedule is "pretty loose," says Fijal. "We won't really know what she wants to do in her free time until we are all there."

A famous singer in the 1960s — she sang the hit anti-war anthem "Universal Soldier" — Buffy spent five years on the hit TV show *Sesame Street*. She founded the Nihewan Foundation for American Indian Education in 1969 and Cradleboard in the early 1980s and spends most of her time deeply involved in educational pursuits.  
Four other stages will be in operation during the two-day event, including



Canadian-born folk icon Buffy Sainte-Marie.

See BUFFY, page 13

## Faces Life In Prison Kirk Billie Guilty



Miccosukee Kirk Douglas Billie testifies at trial.

**By Charles Flowers**  
**MIAMI** — Kirk Douglas Billie, the first Miccosukee Indian to be tried for capital murder in more than 75 years, was convicted of two counts of second-degree murder in the drowning deaths of his sons Kurt and Keith more than three years ago.  
Billie, 32, faces sentencing March 22 by Judge Leon Firtel after a pre-sentence investigation is concluded. Prosecutor Reid Rubin said he will ask for the maximum — life imprisonment on both counts. The minimum sentence for second-degree murder is 15 years.  
Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billie Cypress observed, "In our culture, preserving a life is more precious than taking a life. Florida wanted to take Kirk Billie's life, so Florida shows less value for life than the Tribe."  
Defense attorney Edward O'Donnell, a partner with former U.S. Attorney Dexter Lehtinen in the firm that represents the Miccosukee Tribe on other matters, said he was "elated" with the verdict, because it means Billie can still win his freedom on appeal because of what he called "evidence of bad character" relating to other incidents.

See BILLIE, page 6

## Texas Brahman Bound For B.C.



Tommy Benn

**■ Tribe Purchases Legendary Herd**  
**By Tommy Benn**  
**HOUSTON** — A new age of animal husbandry and international cattle marketing dawned for the Seminole Tribe of Florida, recently when Chairman James Billie, under the guidance of Foreign Affairs Advisor Calixto Garcia, announced the purchase of a controlling interest in one of the finest purebred American Red Brahman herds in North America: the HK Cattle Company of Rosharon, Texas.  
Located 30 miles south of Houston, the HK Ranch was established in the early 1900s by late Henry Clay Koontz and purchased in 1988 by cattleman Larry Jansen. The majestic animals shone like brand new copper pennies, as buyers from around the world gathered at an open house at the HK ranch headquarters to view the sale animals, especially herd major sire HK Passport 777.  
Some 150 buyers in attendance from all over the world were introduced to Chairman Billie and Senor Garcia, as the sale to the Seminole Tribe of Florida was announced. Cattlemen spoke favorably of the sale and the herd's new location, near Miami — the hub of South and

See BRAHMANS, page 7











# Fort Brooks: Post Survived War, But Lost Battle With Rodman Dam

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

By Yolanda Ponce De Leon

**PALATKA** — On the morning of March 21, 1841, Corporal A. Long left Fort Brooks on a hunting excursion. While out in the woods, he was ambushed by men from Halleck Tustenuggee’s band. “Knowing the garrison to be weak the Indians assembled and invited a conflict,” recounts John T. Sprague in his book *The Origin, Progress, and Conclusion of the Florida War*. The book is a recount of the Seminole War from Sprague’s point of view.

[The Indians] “by most hideous yells over the remains of Long, secreted themselves in the hammock by the road-side. They believed as the troops advanced they would discover the body of Long, and gather around it, thus enabling them to inflict a murderous fire.

“Lt. William Alburtis hearing the yells at his post, and believing it to be an attack upon the train with subsistence expected from Fort Russell, accepted the invitation, and with 19 men diverged from the woods to the left, which brought him in rear of the enemy, eagerly awaiting his approach.”

The fighting began. Tustenuggee had double the men of Lt. Alburtis. During the intense fight, Lt. Alburtis and his men were forced to retreat to the fort because he was low in ammunition.

“Lt. Alburtis retired to his post,” writes Sprague, “taking with him one sergeant, one corporal, and three privates severely wounded. Still apprehensive the provision train would be intercepted by the enemy, another sally was made, with 17 men, the entire effective force of the post.

“When crossing the Orange Creek Bridge, about six miles distant, the detachment received the fire of the enemy from both sides of the road, secreted in a dense hammock, and fought its way to the pine barren on the opposite side.

“The Indians now becoming resolute and fearless, by their own strength and position, advanced with rapidity. The detachment extended from right to left, each man taking a pine tree, sending forth rapid and well-directed shots, and returning with vigor the taunts and threats of their adversaries.

“This continued for more than an hour, when the troops, finding the Indians disinclined to approach far from the hammock, advanced upon them. When they retreated, Lt. Alburtis had possession of the ground.”

The battle was over. The Seminoles fled into the woods. Halleck Tustenuggee, a Mikasuki chief, had slipped away with his men.

Halleck Tustenuggee mostly stayed in the area from St. Augustine to the Wacahoota and kept his people protected. He would go along on raids with Coosa Tustenuggee, another Mikasuki chief.

“Halleck sought to lure Alburtis’ force out of the fort,” says John Mahon, author of *History of the Second Seminole War 1835-1842*, which fully recounts the second Seminole War. “Instead of falling into the Indian ambush, Alburtis established a counter-ambush. He worked his men to the rear of the Indian position and there opened a destructive fire. Halleck’s warriors scattered.”

“Halleck Tustenuggee was six feet tall,” says

Mahon. “His face was as smooth and delicate as a woman’s. He had genteel manners, but the white men who knew him felt that he had never known pity of sympathy and were sure he hated their race.

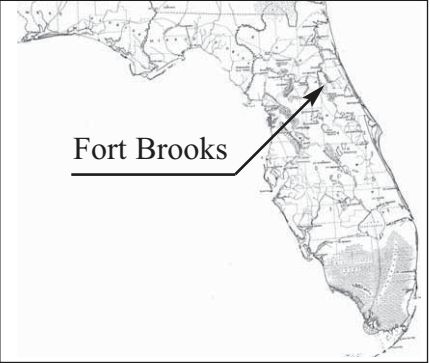
“They acknowledged his intellect was remarkable, but they rated his sensibility as those of a true savage. Behind his sweet smile and unassuming manner lurked a fierce spirit. He had murdered his own sister because she favored surrender, and had threatened other members of the band with a similar fate. When one of them accused him of selling out the Seminole cause, he sprang upon him and tore off his right ear with his teeth.”

Once the battle was over, Lt. Alburtis returned to Fort Brooks to wait for

receiving supplies, continued to serve as an important staging location.

“Fort Brooks was established in 1835,” says Mary Murphy, Putnam County Archivist. “It was located on the western side of the Ocklawaha River at the junction of the river and Orange Creek, 20 miles from the mouth of the Ocklawaha River. It was a pivotal area and the fort was used to move supplies by water into the interior of Florida.”

“Fort Brooks was named after Alexander S. Brooks,” says Leslie Wilson, Assistant Director and Librarian of the St. Augustine Historical Society Library. In 1832, Brooks served as a Major of the 3rd Artillery. By 1835 he had risen to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, serving in the 4th Artillery. He was killed in 1836 by



This modern Ocklawaha River scene would be similiar to one seen by soldiers stationed at Fort Brooks.

the supply train. When it arrived it was safely directed into the fort.

“In the encounter one soldier was killed and one wounded,” recounts Sprague. “Lt. Alburtis and his little band received, as it turned out, the highest commendation. It taught a salutary lesson to Halleck Tustenuggee, whose visits in this quarter became less frequent and destructive. In both affairs he had 35 warriors; one sub-chief and three warriors were killed, and two wounded.”

Halleck Tustenuggee fought against the U.S. soldiers for many years and finally suffered the same fate as Osceola when he too was captured under a flag of truce in 1842. Col. John Garland, under orders of Col. William Jenkins Worth, set up a meeting with Halleck and other warriors. They came, and after dinner, were arrested.

"On July 14, 1842," says Mahon, "Halleck's band of 40 warriors and 80 women was shipped west. 'Have been hunted like a wolf,' Halleck said, 'and now I am sent away like a dog.'"

Fort Brooks survived the attack and after

a steamboat explosion.”

“Fort Brooks was a temporary fort located on the elbow of the Ocklawaha River,” says Hugo Kummer, who served on the Board of Directors of the Putnam County Historic Society. “It wasn’t manned on a permanent basis. I would call it more of a campground than a fort. But you know at that time if you had more than a certain number of men it would automatically be called a fort.

“It was mostly used as an area where the traveling soldiers would rest, eat and supply themselves for their mission ahead. Also, if they felt they were going to get ambushed by the Indians they would go there for protection.

“When I was a little kid I would play on the grounds near the fort. I would go there to go fishing and boats would always be there. People lived in the surrounding area not to conquer or take over the Seminoles but to go fishing because it was and still is a great area to go fishing.

“I was born and reared in Palatka. At the

time it was around the 1930s and still at that time you would see trenches from the battle that occurred there. There was an old man who would tell us tales of the area. His family had lived there all their lives and they passed down tales of the history of the area. He told us a battle, which occurred there around the 1840s where 12 men in total, soldiers and Seminoles, were killed and injured.

“He also said at one point the fort was burned to the ground by the Seminoles. Of course, later on it was rebuilt and garrisoned. After the Army left, little by little with time the fort decayed.

“When I was a boy, I would still see pieces of wood that belonged to the fort lying around the woods. Now, the area where the actual fort stood is presumed to be underwater due to the Rodman Reservoir. When the area was flooded, the grounds where the fort stood went under water.

“Fort Brooks’ connection to Fort Shannon, which was the principal fort in the area, was that it was supplied through Fort Shannon like all the other forts in that area. Fort Brooks was also used to receive and ship goods from New Smyrna on Mosquito Inlet during and after the war.

“When the goods reached the site of . . . Fort Brooks,” writes Zonira Hunter Tolles, author of *Shadows on the Sand*, a history of the land and people in the vicinity of Melrose, Fla., “wagons were again put into use to haul the scarce items across the lake region to Waldo for shipment on the railroad.”

The goods that were received were mostly medical supplies, needles, piece goods, items of clothing, arms and ammunition, and spices. Fort Brooks was important because it served as an entrance route for goods and supplies to make their way into the interior of Florida.

"Billy Bowlegs also came to Fort Brooks to parley," adds Mahon. "Gen. Walker Keith Armistead sent word to suspend operations until the outcome of negotiations was known. Such a policy did not suit some officers, whoe claimed the Indians took advantage of the suspensions of hostilities to plant and raise their crops, having no intention of giving up once their food was harvested. It was during one of these truces in the 1840s when Bowlegs came to Fort Brooks."

Fort Brooks was abandoned for the final time before the Civil War. Today, the actual site of Fort Brooks is under water because of the 9,000 acrea Rodman Reservoir created in 1964.

The fort was located where the Rodman Reservoir and Ocklawaha River meet. The area around the fort is a wooded area and people use the area for picnics, camping, or to put their boats on the Ocklawaha River.

“Once in Palatka to get to the Rodman Reservoir area,” states Connie Wrightmeyer from the St. John’s River Water Management Office, “you get on Highway 19 S. and follow it out approximately 10 miles.

“After you cross the Florida Barge Canal you’ll go over a high bridge. Once you get off the bridge you will see the first main paved dirt road on you right hand side. Follow down the dirt road and you will come into a picnic area, a camping area and there is also a boat ramp, which leads into the river. On your right hand side is the Rodman Reservoir and on your left had side is the Ocklawaha River and further down is the area where the Ocklawaha meets with the St. John’s River.”

For further information on Fort Brooks, call the Putnam County Historical Society at (904) 325-9825.

*Next: Fort Clinch.*

## Seminole Tribe

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# Community News

## Oklahoma Seminoles Visit Big Cypress

**By Janice Billie**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — A smiling and vibrant contingent of Tribal citizens from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma arrived in Big Cypress, Feb. 16, to tour Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari. The group, comprised mostly of Seminole seniors, was enjoying a 10-day field trip coordinated by Councilman Rich Deer and the Seminole Indian Development Authority. Leaving Oklahoma on Feb. 10, they stopped in Alabama to visit the Coushatta Tribe and journeyed on to Panama City. They even attended Chief Jim Billie's Tampa Theatre Concert on Feb. 14 before arriving in Okeechobee and venturing out to the Brighton Reservation for Field Day activities. Disembarking from two chartered buses, the Seminoles were quite taken with the impressive structure of the museum and very enthusiastic about their visit. The Museum staff greeted them on arrival and presented Seminole Tribe of Florida Commemorative pins to each visitor. All were given the official tour, which included the orientation film and a trek on the nature trail out to the Seminole camp. Seminole Tribal President Mitchell Cypress warmly welcomed them to Big Cypress. Later, they returned to their buses and rode out to Billie Swamp Safari for a buffet lunch. After lunch the lively seniors gamely boarded airboats and swamp buggies to get a good look at Seminole's world famous swamps. Seminole nation Tribal Chairman Jerry Haney flew in



Tom Palmer, Miriam Tiger and Rosie Palmer (l-r) visited Florida for first time.

to pay a surprise visit and met up with the group at the Swamp Safari. After having a chat and luncheon with Chairman James Billie, he accompanied them back to Brighton to enjoy the Field Day activities. The visitors expressed their delight and appreciation for the hospitality of the Big Cypress Reservation. Prospectively, it may be the beginning of an annual pilgrimage and the Seminole Tribe of Florida will be honored to play host again.



Native Reign performers surround Seminole Tribal President Mitchell Cypress.

## 'Native Reign' In B.C. Show

**By Janice Billie**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Big Cypress Community citizen along with staff and students of Ahfachkee School were treated to an inspiring message and performance by the Native American youth group *Native Reign* on Feb. 1. Based out of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Southeastern Montana, the group was started by Kenn Bissonette, an employee of the Reservation Board of Health. He says the group was started originally as a mentoring project to help the Cheyenne youth steer clear of alcohol and drugs. From that, the performance group has grown to express their hopes through songs, dances and skits for Native youth to be clean from all forms of drugs or alcohol. Today they take that message to other tribes and reservations. *Native Reign* has traveled across the nation and was very honored to visit the Big Cypress Reservation and the Miccosukee Reservation. Seminole Tribe Board President Mitchell Cypress warmly welcomed *Native Reign* to Big Cypress and arranged for them to visit the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and Billie Swamp Safari, an experience thoroughly enjoyed by the group. President Cypress stated he was "quite impressed by the dedication of the kids and their director to fulfill a dream that is common among all tribes and that is to see our young grow up healthy and with a respect for our cultural values."

## Chairman Speaks For Hope Center

**CORAL GABLES** — James E. Billie, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, was the featured speaker of the annual luncheon of the Hope Center, Feb. 8, at the Omni Colonnade Hotel in Coral Gables. In a moving and inspirational speech, the Tribal Chairman gave a brief history of the Seminole Tribe, highlighting how the Tribe went from being dependent upon Federal grants to becoming the economic powerhouse it is today through the advent and growth of gaming. "Today we are independent and

all Tribal members receive dividends and share in the wealth that has been created," Billie told the audience at the fund raising luncheon. "There are challenges to what we do, but we feel we are doing the right thing for our people and the people of Florida." The Hope Center, a private non-profit organization, was established in 1955. It provides residential and day training programs for individuals with developmental disabilities. For more information on the Hope Center, call (305) 545-7572.

## Chief Jim Billie A Grand Marshal At Tomato Festival



BACK TO HIS ROOTS: Chief returns in "tomato" triumph to Dania Beach.

**By Maureen Vass**  
**DANIA** — Chairman James Billie was the Grand Marshal at the Dania Beach Tomato Festival Parade held Feb. 17. Although the Tomato Festival had been an institution for years, the festivities ended in the late 1960s because Dania Beach ceased to be the Tomato King of South Florida. However, the 10-day festival was brought back to life a few years ago and the parade (along with a wonderful tomato fight) is the culmination of the event. Jo Jo Osceola, the Tribe's Junior Miss Seminole, rode in the Mayor's car just behind the Chairman and was her usual beautiful and smiley self.

## Stanlo Johns Entertains At Crackerday

**By Tommy Benn**  
**OKEECHOBEE** — Brighton Seminole Reservation's own Stanlo Johns shared his experiences as a boy during the recent Okeechobee Crackerday Festival. Stanlo recalled times he lived on the Stewart and Philip Eighart ranch in Blue Field between Okeechobee and Indiantown, before his family moved to Brighton. He told about games the Indian children played and work and chores that had to be done. Helping Stanlo were Terry Kroeplin, Ehricka Osceola and his oldest granddaughter Jade Brasswell. They demonstrated and shared Seminole culture with the guests and exhibited Seminole sweet grass baskets and Seminole patchwork dolls. Betty Williamson of the Okeechobee Historical Society gave the Okeechobee Mural Tour. Indiantown's Mike Duane

showed his cracker horse and told the history of horses that arrived here in 1521 on Ponce de Leon's second trip to the New World. Duane also told how cattle were hung in slings in the holds of the ships crossing the Atlantic, and how it was against Spanish law for a ship to sail without domesticated animals to help restock provisions for the exploration of the new world. The Florida Beef Council and Florida Dairy Industry showed youngsters various types of cattle and let them milk and bottle-feed calves. Pat and Elwyn Bass of Bessinger told the history of the Florida cattle industry, the oldest industry on the North American continent. Gordy Peer, a retired Hollywood stuntman who filled in for Clayton Moore of *The Lone Ranger* fame, showed his skills with both a cowwhip and a bullwhip.

## Spotlight Award To Betty Mae

**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Betty Mae Jumper was honored as one of the winners of the Broward Center's 'Real Women. . .Real Lives' Spotlight Awards Sunday, Feb. 18, at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts. Betty Mae, the Director of the Seminole Tribe's Communications Department, was recognized for a lifetime of achievement. Some of the accomplishments in her incredible journey that were acknowledged include overcoming extreme prejudice, being the first of her people to graduate from high school and nursing school, being the first to bring Western medicine to the Seminole Tribe and authoring two books. "I'm honored to receive this award," Betty Mae said as she accepted the award, which included a Waterford crystal vase. "All of these women have amazing stories. I'm just honored to be included among them." The other women who won the awards are: Susan Reyna, a former migrant farm worker who rose to become an activist fighting domestic and sexual violence through an organization she founded, Mujeres Unidas en Justicia, Educacion y Reforma. Lee Klein, a former fashion model who founded, in 1965, the Children's Cancer Caring Center, the only free treatment center for childhood cancer in the Southeast. She is still the CEO and President of the organization.



(L-R): Lee Klein, Georgia Foster, Susan Reyna, and Mrs. Jumper.

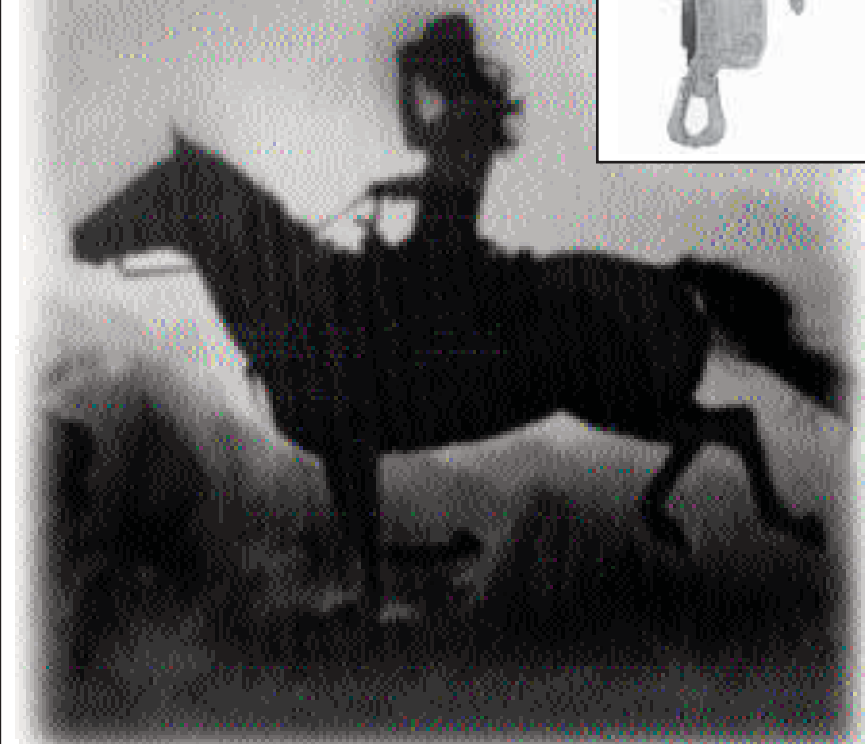
Georgia Foster, a community health activist who founded the Florida Black AIDS Network as well as the Ann Bedell International AIDS Foundation, an organization that collects and ships medications to HIV patients in Belize. She also serves as Executive Director of Positive Images of Broward County.

## Scooter Johns Named EIRA Rodeo Queen

**By Tommy Benn**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — They call her "Scooter" and she's the newly crowned Rodeo Queen of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association (EIRA). Meet Holly "Scooter" Johns. Sixteen-year-old Holly is the daughter of Debbie and Norman Johns of the Brighton Reservation and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Brighton. Holly is a junior at Moore Haven High School. Active in the Brighton 4-H club, she owned and showed the reserve grand champion steer at the 2001 show. "Scooter" will reign for the next two years as EIRA

Queen, traveling and representing the association throughout the United States. She replaces Jimi Lu Huff, daughter of John Wayne and Vicki Huff, also from Brighton. Jimi Lu served the EIRA well and was a credit to her family, clan, and Tribe — always there to lend a helping hand with a beautiful smile on her face. Holly will have her work cut out for her as Queen but with her dedication, desire and personality, she'll do it with ease. She will be up to the task having served as EIRA Barrel Racing runner-up in 2000 and Queen in 2001.

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# Billie

Continued from page 1

“There’s no doubt that, because that evidence was introduced, he’s going to get a new trial, or from the Third District Court of Appeal. He’ll then be tried without that evidence, on a charge of second-degree murder, especially without the evidence of bad character.”

Billie, a short but solidly built man with jet black hair, a ninth-grade education, and a troubled past, had been in jail since the fatal incident occurred June 27, 1997 after a night of drinking and pursuing his girlfriend on the Miccosukee Reservation about 35 miles west of Miami. He never found Sheila Tiger, but he saw her truck. It was apparently being driven that night by Melody Osceola, a 15-year-old babysitter who was holding his infant son, Kirkland. Both O’Donnell and jury members wondered why she was not called as a witness.

Billie took the news of the verdict calmly, shrugging as the clerk read it, then smiled at his attorneys as the jury of five men and seven women filed out of the courtroom. Moments later, he was fingerprinted and led away.

The son of Wayne Billie (Bird Clan) and Margaret Billie (Otter Clan), Billie was arrested and he sank a Chevrolet Tahoe belonging to Tiger, his girlfriend and the mother of the boys, in the canal north of Tamiami Trail. He told police he wanted to “slow her down,” to keep the young mother from driving around at night with their boys in the truck. Besides the two boys who drowned, Kurt, 5, and Keith, 3, Sheila and Kirk are the parents of Kirkland, now 5 years old.

Billie’s defense – and the prosecution’s case for first-degree murder — hinged on the question: did he know the two boys were in the back of Sheila Tiger’s sports utility vehicle? To bolster his case, Rubin brought in testimony about other acts of violence Billie had allegedly committed. There were instances involving Tiger, her mother, and even a threat Tiger said he made against one of their boys



Convicted child murderer Kirk Billie speaks with parents Wayne (center) and Margaret after the verdict.

more than two years prior to the incident, holding a hammer over Keith and prompting her to cover him. Tiger also testified that Billie had beaten her

with a broomstick so hard it broke into pieces, and assaulted her mother, Marie Jim, with a baseball bat. He also took a baseball bat to Mary Jane Billie, who gave birth to four of his children, according to her testimony.

O’Donnell said hearing of those and other incidents prejudiced the jury. He claimed they had nothing to do with Billie’s intentions, or state of mind, when he turned off the Reservation Road on a dark night under a crescent moon, drove to the edge of the canal, left the truck in “drive” and took his foot off the brake. The lawyer said he plans an immediate appeal of the verdict.

“His relationships with other women is not an issue here,” O’Donnell said. “Nor is his relationship with Sheila Tiger, for that matter. The issue is whether he knew those kids were in the back of that (truck). That’s the sole issue here.”

During the same break, Rubin, when asked if the conviction of a charge less than first or second-degree might prompt a motion to release him in return for time served: “That’s the farthest thing from my mind right now.”

## A Spectacle – And A Note

The trial had all the spectacle Miami trials are notorious for, with national media joining the local pack and circling with Betacams and floodlights ready to sniff out any stray quote. *Court TV* documented the entire trial for later broadcast. *Dateline NBC* was also represented. Neither Billie, who wore a Miccosukee patchwork shirt and Levi’s jeans throughout most of the trial, nor his family gave the myriiad of reporters any satisfaction. After the verdict, they spoke quietly in Miccosukee as reporters shouted questions at him before bailiffs cleared the courtroom — almost as if no one else was there.

Besides Tiger, prosecutors were also able to subpoena Mary Jane Billie, Kirk Billie’s parents and former Tribal Chairman Buffalo Tiger, who testified about Tribal customs, and how disputes were settled in “the old days.” Friend Buck Wilson (the needed an English-to-Miccosukee interpreter), came in voluntarily.

Miami attorney Michael Diaz, who advised all the Miccosukee witnesses except for Billie and his parents, said this was a case of “first instance.” An experienced Florida prosecutor, Diaz said he could not remember another case where a member of a Florida tribe was arrested on the reservation by an outside police agency.

“I cannot think of one case where a homicide occurred off the reservation where the arrest was made on the reservation,” Diaz said.

Meanwhile, on the Trail, Buffalo Tiger told the *Tribune* that he could not recall another instance in his 80 years – 30 as Chairman of the Miccosukees – when state prosecutors came on



Prosecutor Reid Rubin meets the press after the Feb. 22 verdict.

the reservation with subpoenas in hand

“In the old days, clans would decide,” Tiger said. In this case, he added, “There’s only two clans involved, Bird and Otter.”

Wayne Billie, who is a clan cousin of Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie (Bird Clan), put it another way: “Miccosukee don’t understand white man’s law. They say it’s a game. But it’s no game to us. It’s serious.”

From Feb. 21 until nearly 5 p.m. on Feb. 22, the jury weighed the evidence — asking for and then declining to review portions of the testimony, asking for and being refused a description of the clothes the children were wearing, asking for and being refused a dictionary.

The dictionary was required, according to juror Lisa Oberlander, because the jury wanted to know the definition of the word “depraved.” The word is used in the definition of second-degree murder in which the killer has “a depraved mind regardless of human life.” The judge instructed the jury to use their own judgment as to the meaning of the word, and said it would take several hours for the court reporter to read back the testimony they had requested. They also asked to see a videotape, but not for the reason the audience suspected.

“We wanted to see whether the windows on the Tahoe were up or down when it was passing,” Oberlander, 35, told the *Tribune* the day after the verdict. O’Donnell asked the videotape, taken by the stationary Miccosukee Police Department camera, showed a prosecution witness had perjured herself when she said Billie had confessed to her. According to the lawyer, the witness was in a rescue helicopter at the time Billie was taken back to the canal.

Regarding Melody Osceola, who – if Kirk Billie was telling the truth – was the last person to see Kurt and Keith alive, Oberlander said, “We wanted to hear from her.”

Much of case swung on the word of Sheila Tiger – one of three witnesses whose testimony the jury asked to review – and a note she found in her trailer left by Kirk Billie. “Don’t ever think the kids will stop me,” it read. Rubin said it meant Billie

would stop at nothing to get his way.

Diane Ward, in closing argument for Billie, said it meant he would report Sheila Tiger to the Child Protective Team if she did not stop driving the children around on the Reservation all night. In her testimony (see below), Tiger said the two boys would sleep on the back seat, head to head, with their feet facing the windows.

The Tribe tried in vain to settle the case on the reservation. Clan leaders and the Tribal Council met and called the drownings accidental. In December, lawyers for the Tribe got an injunction to keep federal officers from serving witness subpoenas on the reservation (for the Tribe’s statement on the trial, see below). That effort caused Rubin to feel “frustrated” with the verdict.

“We did not have all the evidence available to us that we would have liked, because we did not have all the witnesses available to us,” he said.

Rubin said he would ask for the maximum penalty under the law – life imprisonment – for each of the two murder counts when Billie returns for sentencing on March 22.

“It would have to be a substantial amount of time,” he said of the prospective sentence.

Hilda Piloto, attorney for Billie’s parents, said their religion forbade them from testifying against their son. Nevertheless, when they showed up at his trial, they were subpoenaed and ordered to testify.

“They would not leave his side,” she said. Piloto, along with Michael Diaz, represented Micocukee witnesses in the Billie trial. O’Donnell said the state “kidnapped” the Tribal citizens when they left the reservation, held them under an appearance bond that forced them to testify. Tiger was reportedly held in custody for days while the state interviewed her.

Rubin said the heavy-handed tactics were justified and “do not signal anything” regarding relations between the Florida tribes and prosecutors who are acting under the authority of state law. He said, “If the crime was committed in Indian Country, it would be a federal case.” O’Donnell agreed that Miami-Dade had jurisdiction, because the drownings occurred in the Tamiami Canal only a mile off the reservation.

The legal argument was contentious, and often baffling. Lawyers on both sides requested “side-bars” so frequently it seemed as if the trial was an afterthought. They huddled at the side of the bench, numbering as many as nine, including a court reporter who dutifully took down every word. Defense lawyers O’Donnell and Ward made hundreds of objections, and four separate motions for mistrial following Rubin’s closing argument.

Firtel denied each of the motions, commenting at one point, “Isn’t this an argument for an appellate court?”

After the jury verdict, appellate court appeared to be Kirk Billie’s best, and possibly, last, hope for freedom. Diaz put his appeal chances at “100 percent.”

“It’s coming back,” he said.

# Sheila Tiger: An Excerpt From Her Trial Testimony

*Questioned by Reid Rubin, Miami-Dade Prosecutor*

**Q:** Did you eventually meet with Melody Osceola?

**A:** Yes, but at the house.

**Q:** Okay. When you picked up Melody Osceola, what did you do with Melody? What did you, Melody, and the kids do?

**A:** We were just driving around.

**Q:** Okay. Would you do that often, drive around?



Sheila Tiger was described as a “reluctant” witness.

you describe that to the ladies and gentlemen of the jury?

**A:** Yeah, they were lying with their feet towards the door, and their heads were like in the middle.

**Q:** Did Melody come back to you again a couple of hours later?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** And when she came back to you, was that at Marcus’ house?

**A:** Excuse me.

**Q:** When she came back and saw you later that night, the early morning hours, a couple of hours later, was that at Marcus’ house?

**A:** Oh, yes.

**Q:** When Melody came back and saw you, did she have your truck?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Did she have Kurt?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Did she have Keith?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Did she tell you about some things that had happened?

**A:** Yes. *(pick up several questions later)*

**Q:** Had the defendant ever told you anything about what he would do with that truck?

**A:** Yes.

**Q:** And what did the Defendant tell you that he would do with the truck?

**A:** That he would take it and drive it into the canal, if I didn’t stop driving late at night with the kids in there.

*Questioned by Diane Ward, an attorney for Kirk Billie*

**Q:** And he (Rubin) asked you, would the fact that Kirk had threatened you in the past to throw your car in the canal make you more concerned under the circumstances. Did that make you more concerned?

**A:** Yeah.

**Q:** Why?

**A:** Because I know that they was in there, I was concerned. I didn’t know what he was going to do, and if he had taken my car.

**Q:** I’m sorry.

**A:** I wanted to find my truck, because he didn’t know that they were in there, and so I was getting more concerned. I didn’t know what he would do with the truck, you know what I mean.

**Q:** As you were becoming more concerned, were you concerned because you thought that Kirk Billie, if he knew the kids were there, would deliberately hurt the children?

**A:** No.

**Q:** Did that thought ever cross your mind?

**A:** No.

# Miccosukee Response To Billie Case

**MIAMI —** The Miccosukee Tribe notes that the jury in the Kirk Billie case recognized that the facts did not support the first degree murder charges filed by the State of Florida, involving premeditation and deliberation. The jury acquitted on the first-degree charges. In this sense, the citizens of Florida agreed with the Tribe that Kirk Billie did not plan this tragic incident.

As Buffalo Tiger, Elder and former Tribal Chairman, testified at trial, the Miccosukee culture and traditions are different. In the Miccosukee culture, children are valued and loved, all human life valued and loved. “The State’s attempt to imply that the Miccosukees do not value children or human life is an offensive affront,” Buffalo said. Buffalo Tiger added, “Claiming that we don’t value life is just furthering a ridiculous stereotype. We love who we are and what we are. We want other people to respect us as we respect them.”

Miccosukee Tribal Chairman, Billy Cypress, observed, “In our culture, preserving a life is more precious than taking a life. Florida wanted to take

Kirk Billie’s life, so Florida shows less value for life than the Tribe.”

The State prosecutors presented a selective, narrow version of the case which distorted the fundamental truth. The State always implied that there was some other evidence which it could not obtain, but this is simply not the situation.

The State has tried to override well-recognized principles of Tribal self-government and Tribal sovereignty. The State’s efforts to coerce Tribal members and illegally serve subpoenas should be offensive to all Americans, Indian and non-Indian alike. These efforts by the State were resisted by the Tribe, and these efforts by the State failed. A federal district court agreed with the Tribe, based on clear Congressional acts and U.S. Supreme Court precedent.

The Miccosukee Tribe will continue to work to protect its right of self-government and self-preservation, and to protect the right to life in Miccosukee Indian Country.

# Commissioner Brown Arrested

**By Tommy Benn**

**MOORE HAVEN —** Glades County Commissioner Avant Brown turned himself over to Brighton Seminole Police Sergeant Jerry Sapp at the Glades County Sheriff’s Department. Brown surrendered to Seminole authorities after a resident there claimed he sexually assaulted her on January 28.

Brown, 46, is a lifelong resident of Glades County and has served as County Commissioner representing Lakeport and Palmdale for the past eight years. Brown was charged with aggravated sexual battery.

Bond for the current charges was posted \$25,000. Brown was previously arrested and charged with battery and false imprisonment of a woman

after an argument in a local club in Okeechobee County approximately three years ago. Brown pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor battery charge, received probation and kept his seat on the Glades County Commission.

Gov. Jeb Bush’s Press Officer Elizabeth Hirst said the Governor has the authority under Florida law to suspend Brown from his commission seat after formal indictment or as further information is filed by the Assistant State Attorney. The Governor’s office has been sent the arrest report, which has been turned over to his legal advisors for consideration.

The victim’s name is being withheld due to the nature of the alleged crime.

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CATTLE CALL: These Texas-bred HK-Seminole Red Brahmans will stand in Big Cypress pastures.

## Brahmans

Continued from page 1

Central American business in the United States. Export from Miami's USDA export and quarantine center will lower shipping costs — there are more flights from Miami's International Airport to transport breeding stock animals: bulls for herd sires and select females for embryo transplant programs.

Marketing specialist Diana Weil will be handling the sales and promotions of the breeding seed stock, the semen sales and all embryo transplant transactions. Both Ms. Weil and Jansen will be relocating to Florida when the HK cattle are shipped to their new home on the green, green pastures on Big Cypress Reservation. The marriage between HK Cattle and the Seminole Tribe and the expertise of Larry Jansen and marketing ability of Diana Weil is expected to make the Seminole Tribe of Florida a recognized name in the international cattle community.

The Tribe plans to target an international marketing sales scenario, based around the purebred Red Brahman HK cattle name. The breed has proven itself to be productive, profitable and will provide the needed hybrid vigor to enhance already developed domestic cattle operations worldwide. Cattlemen and ranchers from Mexico, South and Central America, Australia, South Africa and beyond need only think *redman, red cattle*, Seminole Tribe of Florida and the HK Seminole Red Brahman Cattle Company.

(Mexican, Central and South American cattle producers tend to prefer the Red Brahman cattle over the Gray Brahman by choice — no genetic reasoning, but those folks feel the red cattle do better than the gray cattle in their given environment.)

Genetics, however, is the secret. Take the Red Brahman bull branded HK 777, for example — he has all the desired characteristics one would look for in a herd sire and passes all traits to his offspring. HK 777 was calved in the spring of 1994 and is the herd's senior sire. The six year old bull's semen is in great demand — globally — for artificial insemination programs world wide.

In a cattle breeding program, the maximum hybrid vigor that can be obtained is by crossing totally unrelated cattle achieving the best of both blood lines. The HK Seminole seed stock and semen from HK Seminole 777 and his offspring will be offered for sale to an international market seeking just that.

The American Brahman — the first beef breed developed in the United States — has played an important part in cattle crossbreeding programs throughout the Americas. Brahman cattle were imported from India into the United States as early as 1854 — gifts from the British government to Louisiana rancher Richard Barrows. By 1926, 266 bulls had been placed on Gulf Coast ranches from Florida to Texas.

As many Brahman elders will remember, it was the Brahman crossing on the Florida native cattle that gave the state's cattle industry its base cows for many of the great cattle herds that call Florida home: Lykes Brothers, A. Duda and Sons, Mormon's, Alico, the Babcock Florida Company, even our own Seminole herds.

These cattle have endured famine, insects, ticks, flies, mosquitoes, and harsh climates and will adapt well to the harsher tropical and sub-tropical environments. They also secrete sebum, an oily substance, from their skin — effective in repelling insects.

An average Brahman bull will weigh between 1,600 to 2,000 pounds. A cow — between 1,000-1,400 pounds. Calves are relatively small at birth and calve easily. Productivity, longevity and efficiency are extremely important traits of the Brahman breed. It is not unusual to find a Brahman cow still producing at 15 years of age. These animals are virtually free of pinkeye, cancer eye and other sun-related diseases.

Beef consumers are constantly seeking leaner and lower caloric diets; the Brahman cattle fill this demand. When crossed on English bred cattle, they yield a high quality carcass free of excess fat with less marbling — more desirable to the American household and the average consumer and housewife.

# Maybe We Can Help?

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SPORTS

For The Record

Seminole Tribal Fair:  
Golf Tournament Results

**HOLLYWOOD** — The following are the winners of the golf tournament that was held at Emerald Hills Country Club:

1st place – B. Young, Jimbo Osceola, B. Green, 2nd place – H. Madrigal, S. Pemberton, L. Riley, C. Sinclair, 3rd place – M. Osceola, L. Tommie, C. Miskom, J. Osceola, 4th place – R. Pemberton, L. King, S. Noear, C. Cypress, 5th place – J. Colebut, S. Osceola, M. Leaf, M. Osceola.

Longest Drive: Jr. Division – Brett Green, Sr. Division – Dale Riley, Women – Scarlett Young, Men – Chris Jimmie.

Straightest Drive: Jr./Sr. – Brett Green, Women – Terry Helms, Men – Dale Riley.

Closest to Pin: Hole # 3: Men – Junior Todome, Women – Linda Tommie, Jr./Sr. – Randy Goodleaf, Hole #6: Men – Charlie Cypress, Jr./Sr. – Neal Johnson, Hole #14: Men – Kahaine Osceola,



(L-R): J. Colebut, M. Leaf, Melissa and Steve Osceola.

Women – Melissa Osceola, Jr./Sr. – Vernon Colebut, Hole #17: Men – Jeff Johns, Women – Wanda Goodleaf, Jr./Sr. – Mike Leaf.

Hollywood Council Representative Max Osceola sponsored the golf tournament held in conjunction with Tribal Fair.

Recreation Activities Results

**HOLLYWOOD** — The following are the results of the archery, log peeling, and canoe racing



BOW MEN: Aiming for the bullseye at the Fair.

held at the Bill Osceola Memorial Arena.

Archery – Boys & girls 10 & under: 1st – Joshua Cypress, 2nd – Jackson Richardson, 3rd – Dejong Frank; Boys & girls 11 – 13: 1st – Joshua Young, 2nd – Jasper Thomas, 3rd – Marlon Foster; Women 17 & over: 1st – Janice Billie, 2nd – Danielle Bankston, 3rd – Katie Cypress; Men 17 & over: 1st – Parker Jones, 2nd – Johnny Jones, 3rd – Elrod Bowers.

Canoe Racing – Co-ed 12 & under: 1st – Heather Peterson & Krystle Young (1:09.12), 2nd – Nick Jumper & Roy Stewart (1:09.97), 3rd – Jackson Richardson & Joshua Cypress (1:42.85); Co-ed 13 – 16 years: 1st – Joshua Young & Joseph Richardson (58.28); Women 17 & over: 1st – Sandi Osceola & Loretta Peterson (51.72), 2nd – Danielle Bankston & Barbara Billie (1:07.58); Men 17 & over: 1st – Kevin Osceola & Preston Baker (47.16), 2nd – Chris Osceola & Darren Osceola (51.22), 3rd – Bobby Frank & Everett Osceola (1:10.81).

Log Peeling – Men: 1st – Bill Johns (5:54.78), 2nd – Matthew Gopher (5:54.78), 3rd – Leroy Osceola (6:49.63); Women: 1st – Ethel Gopher (9:35.71), 2nd – Christie Strickland (13:54.44), 3rd – Janice Billie (16:19.25).

Brighton Field Days:  
Pool Tournament Results

**BRIGHTON** — Sponsored By Brighton Council Representative Jack Smith Jr. and Brighton Recreation Department.

Women 18 – 39 years old: 1st place – Peggy Nunez, 2nd place – Theresa Boromei, 3rd place – Rita Billie, 4th place – Brenda Cypress, 5th place – Janel Billie. 40 years and up: 1st place – Dale Grasshopper, 2nd place – Debbie Carter, 3rd place – Linda Tommie, 4th place – Rose Jones, 5th place – Alice Sweet.

Men 18 – 39 years old: 1st place – Tony Bert, 2nd place – Les Gopher, 3rd place – Roderick Buster, 4th place – Joey Micco, 5th place – Daniel “Boogie” Nunez. 40 years and up: 1st place – George Grasshopper, 2nd place – Russell Osceola, 3rd place – Ricky Doctor, 4th place – Parker Jones, 5th place – Tony Billie.



(L-R): Russell Osceola and George Grasshopper.

Golf Scramble 4-Man Blind Draw Tourney Results

**BRIGHTON** — The following are the winners of the Brighton Field Days 3rd Annual Golf Scramble, 4-Man Blind Draw, sponsored by Brighton Council Representative Jack Smith Jr. and Tampa Liaison, Richard Henry.

1st place – Mike Micco, Allen Huff, John Madrigal, John Huff Jr., 2nd place – Jason Tommie, Richard Henry, Theresa Boromei, Bobby Frank, 3rd place – Linda Tommie, Cicero Osceola, Charlie Cypress, Jason Grasshopper, 4th place – Maxie Tommie, Joe Frank, George Grasshopper, Eric Johns, 5th place – Debbie Carter, Joe Grasshopper, Lawrence Osceola, Leroy “Keno” King.

Most Honest Score – James Tommie, Howard Madrigal, Charlie Fry; Longest Drive – Debbie Carter, Jason Tommie.

Closest to the Pin Hole #2 – Linda Tommie, Hole #8 – Charlie Cypress, Hole #9 – Joe Grasshopper, Hole #17 – Jason Tommie.

Rodeo’s Best Hit Brighton

**By Tommy Benn**

**BRIGHTON** — With almost \$80,000 in prize monies on the line, Brighton’s Fred Smith Arena was the place to be if you wanted to see rodeo at its finest Feb. 17 – 18, as the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Associations (PRCA) came to town.

The participants came as part of the annual Brighton Field Days, mostly because Seminole Councilman Jack Smith Jr. and Representative Alex Johns are both avid fans.

Troy Weekly and his 5 Star Rodeo Production crew provided the stock that kept the action lively.

The following are the results:

Saddle Bronc: Cody Jesse, Oregon, 80 points, \$2,299.29. Chad Klein, Jackson, La., 77 points, \$1,839.45. William Pittman, Florencem Miss., 76 points, \$1,359.60.

Steer Wrestling: Rope Myers, Van, TX, 3.6 seconds, \$2,359.04. Charles Harris, Modesto, Calif., 3.8 seconds, \$2,110.72. Hardy Dymmek, Kissimmee, Fla., 4.1 seconds, \$1,862.40.

Calf Roping: Stran Smith, Tell, TX, 7.5 seconds, \$2,303.75. Ronnie Hyde, Bloomington, Ind., 7.8 second, \$2,061.25. Rusty Sewalt, Del Rio, TX, \$1,818.75.

Team Roping: Speed Williams, Jacksonville, Fla., and Rich Skelton, Llano, Texas, 4.6 seconds, \$1,744.06 each. Bobby Hurley, Cerres, Calif., and Mike Beers, Powell Butte, Ore., 4.8 seconds, \$1,443.36 each. Bubba Ireland, Fort Myers and Pete Hays Jr., Fort Pierce, 5.0 seconds, \$1,142.66 each.

Barrell Racing: Crystal Shumate, Williston, Fla., 14.83 seconds, \$2,618.88. Melissa Hubier, 14.93 seconds, \$2,226.04. Wanda Kinchen, 15.03 seconds, \$1,833.21.

Bull Riding: Kagen Sirett, Bozman, Mont., 88 points, \$2,531.70. Jason Brumley, Davidson, NC, 83 points, \$1,940.97. Garth Oldfield, Milo, Alberta, 79 points, \$1,434.63.

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\$100.00 will be paid to the team with the closest shot to each pin for 18 holes. Par 3 from the Tee Area Closest To Pin. Par 4 will be the second shot Closest To Pin from off Putting Greens. Par 5 will be the third shot Closest To Pin from off the Putting Greens.

The price per team is \$400.00. Plus we will have a \$5.00 Raffle ticket 1st prize: Callaway X14 Irons 3 to wedge. 2nd prize: Yonex 9% Golf Driver. 3rd prize: Golf Lesson by P.G.A. Pro Rod Curl. 4th addition prizes.

For more information phone Ernest Riley (407) 339-6082 or The Blue Heron Golf & Country (863) 467-2222. Please phone early to enter your team everyone welcome.

The Native Boys of Spring

**By John Harjo and Brett Cahwee**

Spring is nearing and that can only mean one thing: baseball – America’s favorite pastime. But did you know it is one of Native America’s favorite pastime, too? During the Draft of 2000, Major League Baseball teams drafted three Native Americans.

In the 45th round the Chicago Cubs picked up Sammy Cooper (Creek) from Mesa, Ariz. The Philadelphia Phillies used their second round pick to draft high school standout Keith Bucktrot (Creek/Euchee) of Claremore High School in Claremore, Okla. And, the Houston Astros picked up University of Oklahoma sophomore sensation Tommy Whiteman (Crow/Kiowa) of Mid West City, Okla. in the sixth round.

Sammy Cooper, a 5-10, 175-pound short-stop, played collegiate ball for the University of New Orleans. As short-stop for the Privateers, he amassed many honors and awards during his senior season. Sammy was placed on the second team All-Sunbelt Conference team, All-Regional team at the NCAA baseball regional, All-South Central Region second team, and was an All-Louisiana honorable mention. He finished his senior season with a .325 batting average, a slugging percentage of .468, and a fielding percentage of .945. He will spend spring training with the Cubs in his hometown of Mesa.

Keith Bucktrot spent early January with the Phillies in Clearwater at the organization’s five-day camp for selected minor league players. The Phillies selected 10 individuals chosen from their minor league teams and 2000 draft picks to undergo a four day leadership training program aimed at those viewed to be the future leaders on and off the field within the organization. The camp was split into morning workouts and evening seminars on subjects like how to handle the press, among others.

Before the 2000, draft Bucktrot was touted as a possible first rounder. Some teams were concerned about off field problems which were later described as, “overstated.” Major League Baseball scouts have described Keith as having “unquestionable athletic ability, a 94 m.p.h. fastball but some raw mechanics.”

He has also been getting keith will as an outfielder because of his rifle arm. Keith will spend spring training with the Phillies in Clearwater.

Tommy Whiteman spent last summer with the Auburn Doubledays out of New York. Tommy hit .250 with 21 RBI’s, one homer and seven stolen bases. Before that, he played shortstop for the Oklahoma Sooners and made it to the 2000 NCAA Baseball Tournament.

Whiteman was drafted out of high school by the Phillies but opted to attend the University of Oklahoma. As a freshman, Tommy was a third baseman for the Sooners with a .330 batting average, 44 RBI’s and he homered seven times. His senior year he finished with a .360 batting average, 44 RBI’s and six homeruns – the driving force behind the success of the 2000 Oklahoma Sooners (41-23).

Tommy was number one in: batting average (.360), runs scored (65), hits (91), triples (10), stolen bases (21) and games played and started (64). His sophomore year he was second statistically in slugging percentage (.565), total bases (143), stolen base percentage (.875), fielding double plays (37) and assists (175). He ranked third for the 2000 Sooners in on-base percentage (.430), runs batted in (44) and steal attempts (24). Lastly he was fifth on the team in doubles with 15.

Tommy will be in Kissimmee beginning March 4, for spring training. He will be vying for a roster spot on the Houston Astros and a chance to fulfill a lifelong dream.

“My life is baseball,” he said “I’m looking forward to working all the time, every day . . . it’s going to be all baseball.” When asked if he is nervous Whiteman stated, “I’m not nervous yet, just excited.”

— John Harjo and Brent Cahwee write NDN sports for the Seminole Tribune. Their website URL is [www.ndnsports.com](http://www.ndnsports.com)

Tommy Whiteman swings for the Auburn Doubledays (NY) last summer.

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# Bobby McDaniel – Seminole Neighbor

**By Janice Billie**  
**CLEWISTON** — Funeral services were held Feb. 14, 2001, for Robert Enoch “Bobby” McDaniel Sr., cattle rancher, farmer and longtime neighbor of the Big Cypress Reservation Community.

The New Harvest Church in Clewiston was filled to capacity as many friends, relatives and neighbors came to pay respects and say goodbye to a man who was a pioneer and a pillar in the Hendry County area.

Born in Okeechobee, Mr. McDaniel would have turned 69 this month. He settled in this area with his parents, Agnes and John Wesley McDaniel, at the age of two when they established the McDaniel Ranch, one of the largest family-owned ranches in South Florida.

McDaniel’s father, known as Granddaddy Mac, began the family dynasty when he arrived in Okeechobee from Tallahassee without much more than a strong will to wrench a living from these isolated lands. With partner C. J. Jones, Bob McDaniel’s father initially prospered in sawmill and packing-house businesses, later using his profits to buy land. He eventually bought his partner’s land holdings in Devil’s Garden, giving up the sawmill and packinghouse to establish what is now the 23,000 acre McDaniel Ranch.

Bob McDaniel attended school in LaBelle. He also graduated from the Admiral Farragut Naval Academy in St. Petersburg and attended the University of Florida for two years. He eventually left school to return to the ranch and raise cattle.

Known for his strong work ethic, he worked the big ranch for 50 years. He and his wife Mary Lee also raised four sons. As the boys grew up and started working the ranch, the family extended their efforts into sugar cane and citrus production. The elder McDaniel supervised, working closely with his sons every day. The sons described their father as their “cornerstone.”

The McDaniel ranch borders the northern sections of the Big Cypress Reservation, so through the years the McDaniels and the Seminole community have established a

cordial and respectful relationship.

“My dad, Jimmy Cypress, and his brother Junior grew up with Bob and later on worked for him as cowhands. Back then that was the only job to be found around here. It was our bread and butter, and I’ll always remember him for giving my dad work so he could put food on our table. My thoughts and prayers are with Bob’s family during this time,” said Tribe President and Big Cypress resident Mitchell Cypress.



Bobby McDaniel and wife Mary in a family photograph.

Tribal citizen Moses Jumper Jr. says he first met Bob McDaniel when he went to the ranch to ask to borrow some equipment to help in building his home out here some 25 years ago. He eventually became good friends with the youngest son, Jeff McDaniel, and came to respect and admire the father for the solid character and attitudes he had instilled in his sons.

Jeff attributes this to his father being a church person all his life and requiring his sons to attend church every Sunday as they were growing up.

“It didn’t matter that church was 35 miles away, when Sunday came we were going to church,” Jeff says.

Moses states Mr. McDaniel knew and respected many Tribal citizens and would send flowers and attend the funerals of those he knew. He counted among his friends the late Junior Cypress and the late Willie Frank.

Mr. McDaniel was a Shriner and a member of the Masonic Lodge. He was a quiet, unassuming man known for his dry sense of humor and tenacity at driving a hard bargain. He was also known as a man who could be counted on to help his friends and neighbors.

Along with the family the funeral service was attended by elected officials, fellow ranchers and farmers, associates and people from all sections of Hendry and surrounding counties.

Daughter-in-law Bonnie McDaniel described the church as “beautiful” due to the innumerable arrangements of flowers.

Eulogies were given by the Rev. Tony Miller, Pastor at New Harvest, Rev. Bill Derryberry, former Pastor of First Baptist Church, and Rev. Dr. Ken Reaves, Pastor of First Baptist Church. Entombment was at Lee Memorial Park, Fort Myers.

Mr. McDaniel is survived by his wife, Mary Tillman McDaniel and four sons, Robert E. McDaniel Jr., John L. McDaniel, David McDaniel and Jeffrey McDaniel and 13 grandchildren.

Mr. McDaniel made a mark in this world and will be missed by many. The Seminole Tribe expresses their condolences to the McDaniel family.

# Betty Tiger Remembered



Betty Tiger, 1959 – 2001

I grew up with you and we were friends since childhood. You went away to boarding school, you came back home and we were still friends.

Then you became my sister-in-law. You knew me in a way! We did! And I knew you in that way! We became close. You always told me to hang in there with that big beautiful smile. When you were down, you still were smiling. You helped me a lot when my brother passed away.

When I wrote something in the paper about my brother, you said, “I sure hope somebody someday will write something about me.”

I have. I want everyone to know you really were a good person. Yes, you had your ups and downs, but you really did hang in there. I keep expecting you to call me on my cell phone.

I told you before that I will never get over my brother’s death! Now, I won’t ever get over yours either. Two beautiful souls will always be in my heart, mind and soul. You will never be forgotten, Betty Tiger. I love you always!

Your friend always — your-sister-in-law, Ginger T. Tiger.

# Tribe Visits Sydney To Develop Tourism

**By Lee Tiger**  
**SYDNEY, Australia** — In an effort to continue tourism development with the Australian travel industry, Florida Seminole Tourism, in partnership with Greater Fort Lauderdale, attended the Visit USA Seminars 2001 in February.

One of Secretary of State Katherine Harris’ goals for the Florida World Pavilion (co-sponsored by the Seminole Tribe) during the 2000 Sydney Olympics was to establish new commercial relations with the Aussies. During that time, Seminole tourism representatives were introduced to James M. McCarthy, consulate general of the U.S., who invited Florida Seminole Tourism to attend the Visit USA tourism seminars.

Close to 500,000 Australians visited the U.S. in 1999, and double-digit growth is expected this year. Florida is the fifth most popular state visited. Their perception, however, is that Florida is only beaches and Orlando attractions.

During the seminars, over 1,500 tour operators, travel agents and journalists learned about new Florida destinations, including Greater Fort Lauderdale and the



DOWN UNDER: Alfredo Gonzalez, Les Endevton, Lee Tiger and Monique Roos.

Seminole Tribe’s Big Cypress attractions, featuring Billie Swamp Safari and the Ah-Tah-Thai-Ki Museum. Also, the tribe’s casinos and hotels were promoted. Australians are interested in nature-based tourism but know little about the Everglades.

This summer, United Vacations, Qantas Airlines and other tour operators plan to conduct sight inspections in Fort Lauderdale and the Seminole Big Cypress Reservation to include Seminole tourism packages in their upcoming bookings to the United States.

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HUMOR

# Miss Weeny

We have been together a little over a year now. We shared everything — a house, a '78 Chevy Luv truck, assorted dogs, the seasonal flu — it still wasn't enough. She wanted more. She wanted commitment. That's the one "C" word women can never get enough of. So here I am, Raiford Starke, with my girlfriend Lowella, sitting in The Counselor's office on the third floor of the Starkansaw Mental Hell Clinic — where the dysfunctional couples of Starkansaw go to work things out.

On The Counselor's bookshelf was a frog-eared copy of *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus, Now Get Your Head Out of Uranus, Pluto*. It made me ponder: We've come a long way . . . since Ralph Cramden first talked of sending a woman to the moon.

"Now what we have heeyuh . . . is a fail-yuh . . . to com-MUNE-icate," said the stern-face behind granny glasses. She was half school-marm, half librarian, half airport cop, half sadistic chain-gang warden from Oz. She was a 100 percent she-coon women's libbing daughter of the Devil on a bad day with a psychological degree.

Miss Weeny and I didn't get along. Maybe that's why Lowella picked her to save our relationship. Each meeting was basically an hour-long Starke-bashing session. I'm used to it. It seemed like only yesterday I was dragged screaming and kicking to this room.

(As a matter of fact, it was only yesterday when Lowella's sister Rowella and me were sitting together on this same dang therapist's couch — but that's another affair . . . uh . . . story.)

Lowella always "shared" first: "It's that column, Miss Weeny. His whole life revolves around that danged Raiford Starke column. We were supposed to have dinner at 6 p.m. yesterday, but instead he spent all day and night at the office working on that stupid column!"

The tears started flowing and the hankies emerged and Miss Weeny glared at ol' mean man me.

"I don't mind his 1976 Evan Johns Fender pink Paisley Telecaster guitar — it's that godforsaken Microscan 4GP/AD Energy Saving MPR II Monitor I can't stand!" Lowella screamed.

I started shifting nervously, until I remembered Miss Weeny's gotta eat too, and she wouldn't dare break her Counselor's Code of Confidentiality and spill the beans on some of my private sessions that Lowella didn't know about — thereby blowing all the business Raiford Starke has inadvertently sent her way.

Lowella kept on: "And another thing. I wish he would leave my name out of his articles. I mean, isn't anything sacred? Why can't he just make something up instead of going out and living his life, deadline after deadline and then airing our dirty laundry in that fish rag of a birdcage bottomvrwrap, the *Starkansaw Tribune*?"

"So what we heeyuh," began Miss Weeny, "is a conflict between your issues of privacy and his obsession with authenticity." The Counselor snapped her fingers and some goons in white coats appeared. They grabbed and strapped me — kicking and screaming — onto a treatment table. Next thing you know here comes the ol' Electro-crème, then one of those mouth-guards is shoved in my face. A man in a white coat walked up with two Bose speakers and pressed them to my ears.

"Give him the maximum voltage, Mr. Biggerstaff — about 140 db," Miss Weeny instructed the man behind the Peavey console.

"Aye Aye Miss Weeny."  
The last thing I remember is my whole body screeching "Yee-eeowwww !!!!!"

The next thing I'm aware of is waking up in the Counselor's office. The clock on the wall reads ten minutes later, the gurney I am lay-

ing on is still smoking and all the *shpilkes* has been *schmeared* out of me. Like a monkey on Prozac, I am agreeable with everything Lowella and Weeny say.

My thoughts are calm as I take the pledge: From now on, no more living my life for the next Raiford Starke column. I have been totally emasculated. I spoke aloud in a comforting Alvin and the Chipmunks sounding voice: "No more truth and authenticity. Just light-hearted fictitious anecdotes featuring characters that have no resemblance to actual persons real or imagined. And I will leave Lowella's name out of my column.

I'll make more money this way. By neutering my soul, giving up my maverick style and playing it safe, heck, I might even land a staff job with *Reader's Digest* magazine."

"Oh-h-h-ho-h-h Raiford," Lowella seemed to melt into lovey-dovey.

"Well," said Miss Weeny, "I think we've made a bit of progress here. You're definitely showing some improvement." With beady eyes and lips dripping with cheap stick, Weeny looked at her watch. "Well I believe we've run out of time and I have another couple waiting..."

As we walked out the door, who else do I see waiting but my best friend Sunset Beach Pete . . . and Rowella! I caught Rowella's gaze and we both looked away quickly, like ships scraping sterns in the night.

Ol' Pete looked equally stunned. "Uh . . . Lowella?" he stuttered sheepishly towards my girlfriend. while I caught her furtive glance.

Now what was that supposed to mean? Suddenly it felt like I was smack dab in the middle of a hornet's nest of dirty, lowdown, double dealin,' two timin,' no good lyin' and cheatin.' The stares. The glares. The second and third degree burns. Wait a minute, I thought. This is hot stuff. What a wonderful column this could make!

But then I looked over at Pete and Rowella. No material at Lowella and Pete. And I thought, wait a minute. . . This ain't no mater for a Raiford Starke column. This is for real. We're talking real human beings with real human problems — not some convoluted plot that some bleary-eyed hack with a typewriter dreamed up at 3 o'clock in the morning. I was at Dysfunction Junction. (But I had no soul to sell — I had pawned that off on Robert Johnson at the Crossroads years ago.)

I came to realize right then and there that if you can't trust yourself, then you might as well not trust your friends neither. And so, as I eyeballed all the players in this Immokalee stand-off, I began to wonder: What would the Great One do in a situation like this? I looked down at the woman who had dragged me down to this place week after week to supposedly try and "save" our relationship. "Rowella — I mean — Lowella!" I barked.

"Y-y-yes d-d-dear," she said timidly. As she came within arms-reach I quickly grabbed a hold of her, looked her square in the mug and said, in the deepest Ralph Cramdon baritone I could muster: "Baby, you're the greatest!"

Our reverie was broken by the angry voice of Miss Weeny: "Next!"

I glanced at ol' Pete and Rowella, eyes downcast, slowly shuffling into her office. And I wrote another song, key of E:

*Well I woke up this mornin'  
The dog peed on my shoes  
Got to go see ol' Miss Weeny  
Got dem goin' to the counselor blues.*  
— *Raiford Starke attends therapy in Hollywood, Fla.*



(L-R): Lee Tiger, Kenny Scabby Robe, Tom Bee, Stephen Tiger, and Douglas Spotted Eagle.

## Tom Bee Wins Grammy In First Native Category

By Colin Kenny  
ALBUQUERQUE — Native record company founder Tom Bee took the long stroll to center stage during the recent televised Grammy awards and accepted the very first award given for the category of music he has spent his life playing, producing and promoting. Native American music.

How does it feel, Tom?  
"It feels like they just put an Indian on the moon," said the affable executive from the offices of his Sound Of America Records Co. (SOAR) here.

His role as a producer of the *Gathering of Nations Pow Wow* release was rewarded as the best of the year by the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS), which opened up the native category for the first time this year.

"We campaigned hard for this category," said Bee, "I was the driving force behind this category, and to have won in the inaugural is outstanding."

According to Bee, to be eligible for a Grammy in this new category the Native American music must be "51 percent traditional." For Bee, the traditional part means using "pre-Columbian" Native American musical instruments and "no Hip Hop."

The Tom Bee and Douglas Spotted Eagle-produced *Gathering of Nations Pow Wow* release consisted of 16 various drum groups representing various Indian nations recorded at the April, 1999 Gathering of Nations event at New Mexico University in Albuquerque and released last year.

Spotted Eagle's lack of a federally-recognized Indian heritage and the inclusion of contemporary Oneida songstress Joanne Shenandoah in the category has produced controversy among both Indian artists and NARAS officials. Seminole Chief Jim Billie, an early favorite for the Native award, was placed in the Spoken Word Children category by NARAS, where he failed to make the final five cut.

While Bee says that there will always be those who criticize the criteria set in this category for lack of inclusiveness of certain Indian artists, he calls it a "starting point," predicting a future sub-category for the more contemporary Native American sounds.

But for now, it's an especially sweet victory for Bee. "I'm a diabetic," he says, "and it doesn't get sweeter than that!"



# Live Concert Filmed For Chief Billie DVD

TAMPA — Ornate Tampa Theatre provided a haunting and majestic backdrop for a live high-definition (HD) video recording of Chief Jim Billie and his band, Feb. 14, during a live concert.. The recording will serve as the centerpiece of a two-hour DVD slated for national release later this year.

The Valentine's Day show featured an opening set by children's entertainer Shana Banana; her one-hour segment was also filmed and included appearances by Tribal citizens Micco and Kowako Billie and Miss Seminole Desiree Jumper. Her Tampa Digital Studios-produced video and television show "Shana Banana's Music and Fun For Kids is also planned to air before the end of 2001.

Chief Billie, with a new haircut and no trace of the laryngitis that caused a cancellation of this show three weeks before, led his band through two complete 75-minute musical sets before the packed house and more than two hours of "cutaways" behind closed doors. Musicians included guitarist Raiford Starke, drummer Jeff Renza, keyboardist Bob Taylor, guitarist David Shelly and bassist Robert Freightrain Parker (Seneca).

"It was a long day and night," said Starke, who is also a *Seminole Tribune* columnist. "My fingers were about to fall off. I don't

lovely," said Wild Tracks Productions owner Leslie Gaines, who is co-producing the show with Pete Gallagher of the Seminole Tribe. "We tried to match the quality of the Eagles and Yanni DVDs and there's no question we achieved that goal."

Dan Bramm, of Bramm Films, served as Director for the three-camera shoot, which involved a dramatic lighting of the entire theatre stage and three-story backdrop by Lighting Director Billy Hevesy. Mixed with stage "smoke" and various colors, the gargoyles and other fantasy figures on the 1920s-era theatre walls seemed to come alive.

Recording engineer was Jim Bickerstaff, who will mix down the product over the next few weeks. Gaines estimates it will take "a couple of months to get this thing into final shape." Gaines, Gallagher, Bramm, Hevesy and Bickerstaff also teamed in the

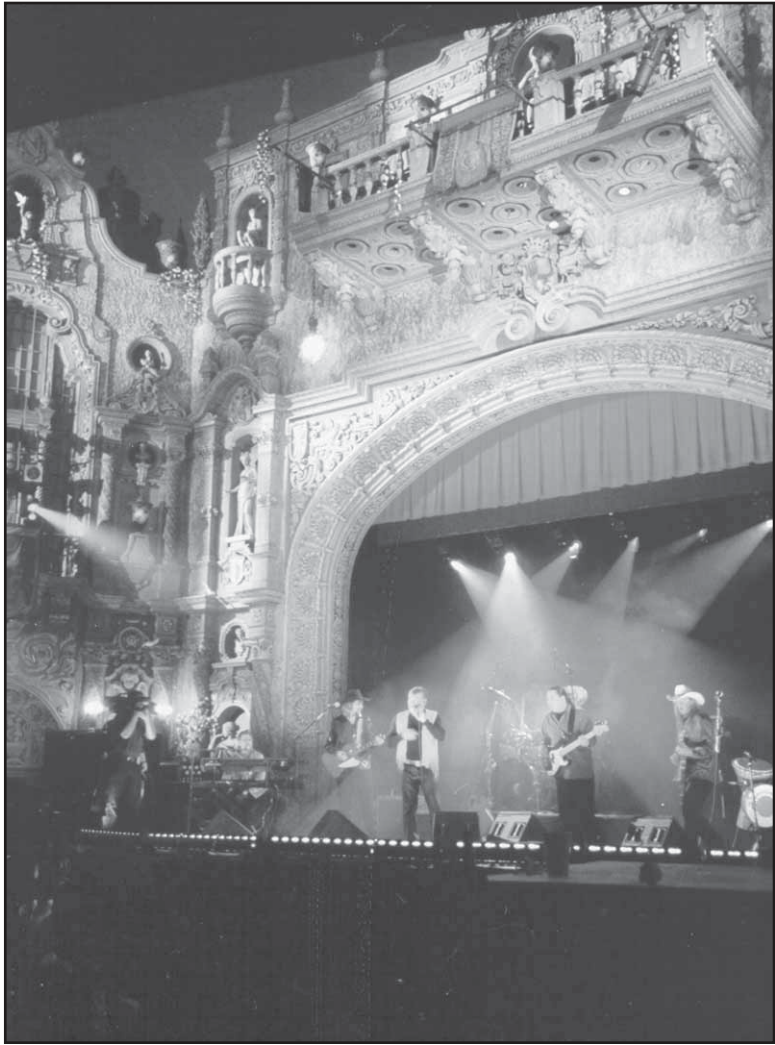
award-winning video documentary "Florida Folk Festival Live!" which included appearances by Chief Billie and other Florida folk artists, including the late Don Grooms.

Among audience members were 70 Oklahoma Seminole seniors who "accidentally" happened by the Theatre during a Florida chartered bus "field trip" from Wewoka. The Old Tampa Theatre marquee advertising Chief Billie's name had been up for weeks and was featured on several national sports programs during Super Bowl week. The event was touted for two weeks on Radio Disney, which sent its "fun van" to the site.

Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Executive Director Billy Cypress — in 1800s Seminole clothing — and Marketing manager Tom Gallagher brought a museum display to entertain and educate guests in the Theatre lobby. The event had been advertised as a kickoff event for the Tribe's Discover Native America Powwow and Music Festival, March 3-4, at Eckerd College.

When complete, the Chief Jim Billie DVD will include 16mm film aerial footage of the Big Cypress reservation and 10,000 Islands area of Southwest Florida, as well as film of Tribal medicine woman Susie Billie and her family, interviews with Billie, himself, and various other videos (including the segment where his finger was bit off by an alligator last year). Footage may also be included of Billie's visit to an ancient canoe site with Secretary of State Katherine Harris, and a montage of his old Vietnam photos behind the song "Buzzard Dance."

SOAR records founder Tom Bee (recent winner of a Grammy) has said his company will distribute the final product



LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION: Music was center stage for DVD.

nationally, as they have Chief Jim Billie's last two albums, "Alligator Tales," and "Seminole Fire." When finished, it will be the first native DVD to hit record and video stores.



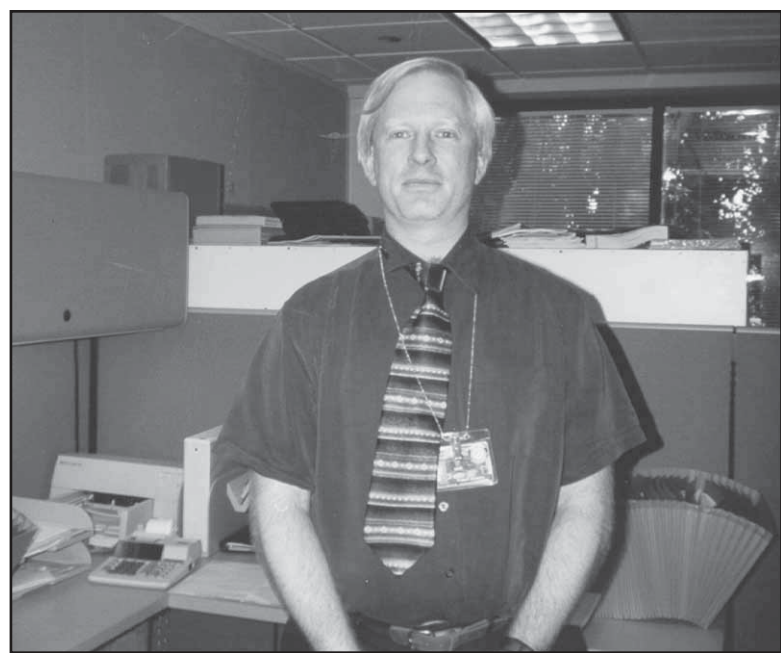
Bathed in light, band performs while a cameraman (foreground) films.

think I'll be able to type my column for a couple of weeks."  
"The video footage is fabulous. The Chief was in excellent form, his band played great and the Tampa Theatre background was just

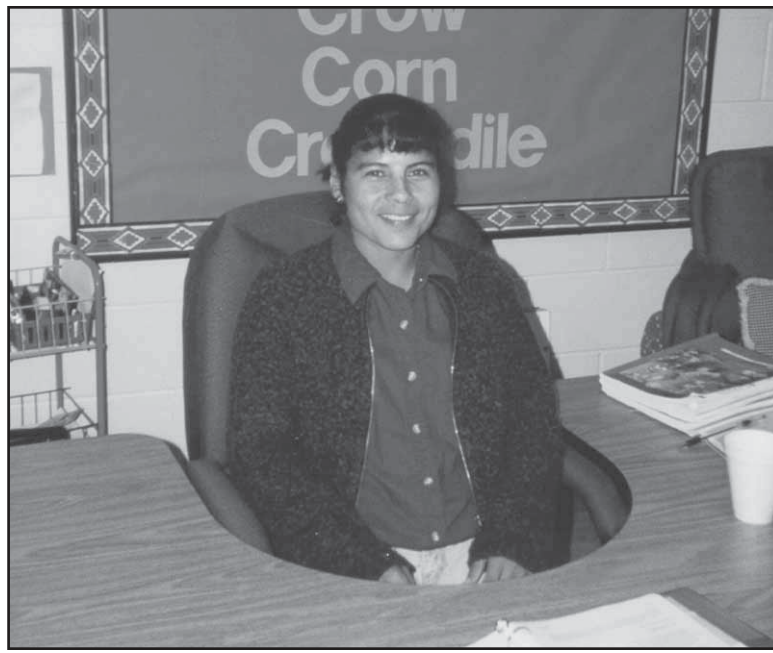


THE CHIEF JIM BILLIE BAND: (L-R) Dave Shelley, Jeff Renza, Chief Jim Billie, Raiford Starke, Robert 'Freightrain' Parker, Bob Taylor.

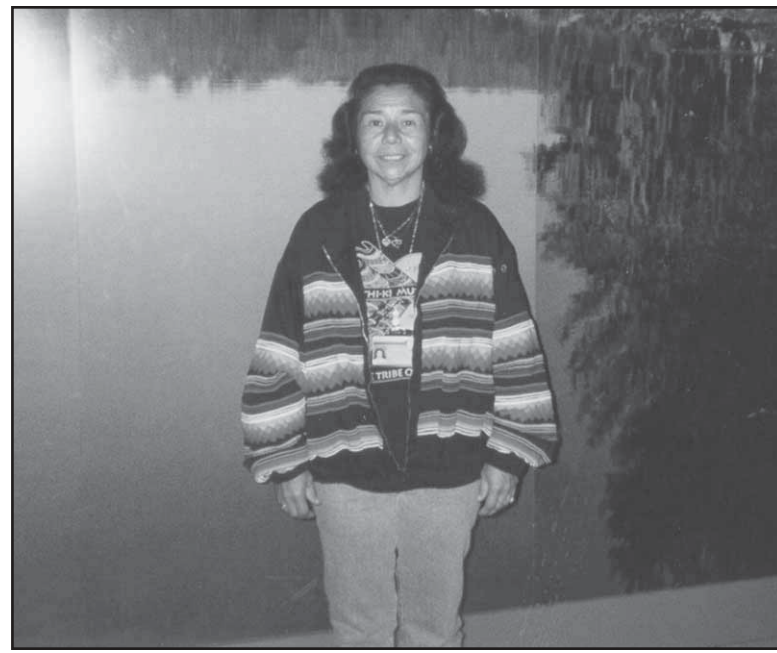




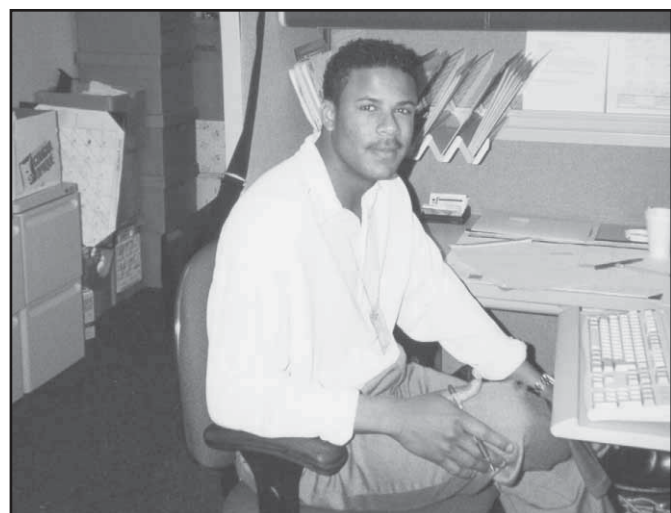
Bob Gleason



Cathy Cypress



Sarah Kirkland



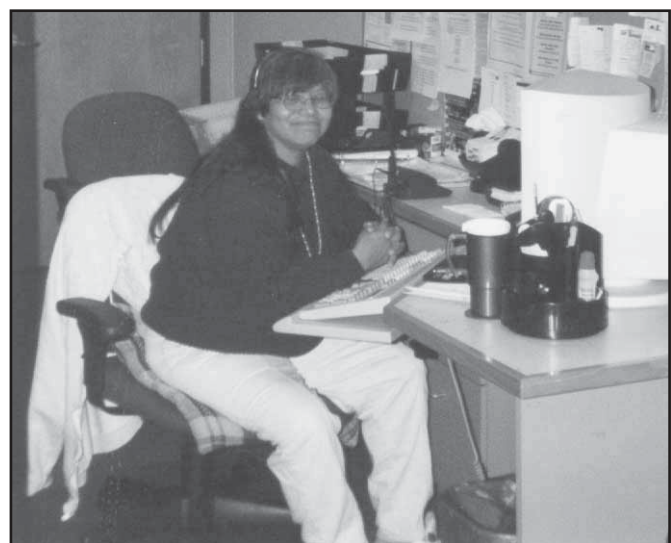
Bret Freeman



Phyllis Hawkins



Tamara Parrish



Shirley MacLennan

## Welcome New Seminole Tribal Employees

By Maureen Vass

There are some new faces around and the *Tribune* wants you to know who they are. Every quarter there will be a host of new names and faces for all of us to welcome to the Tribal employment roster. Some employees were not available for the pictures but we do have their names listed below. We hope everyone enjoys this new spot and we look forward to saying "hi" to all of you for many years to come.

Readers may notice that many of these "new" employees have been around for some time. However, it's nice to know that they are now part of the regular crew.

### Immokalee

Raul Alvarez-Utilities  
Susan L. Enriquez-Gaming  
Luz Ma Alejandra Herrera-Gaming  
Efrain Marrero Jr.-Broadcasting

### Big Cypress

Richard Garcia-Maintenance  
Roy Garza-Blue Top Construction  
Sarah Kirkland-Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum  
Debbie Lee-Billie Swamp Safari  
Tamara Parrish-Teacher, Ahfachkee School  
Josh Parson-Billie Swamp Safari  
Tracy Summeralls-Health  
John Vazquez-Billie Swamp Safari

### Brighton

Joseph Barletto-Health  
Jessie Billie-Broadcasting  
Thelma Copher-Utilities  
Emma Johns-Family Services  
Joyce Jumper-Broadcasting  
Charlie Micco-Utilities  
Melissa Ogletree-Dental  
Beverly Parker-Gaming  
Judy Snow-Health  
Natalie Swanson-Health  
Perrie Whidden-Health

### Hollywood

Ciara D. Billie-Gaming  
Paul Buster-Cultural Education  
Brenda Cypress-Purchasing  
Nathan Doctor-Juvenile Justice  
Bret Freeman-Human Resource Dept.  
Robert Gleason-Travel  
Phyllis Hawkins-Accounting  
Toby Johns-Housing  
Amanda Jowers-Health  
John Linn-Chairman's Office  
Rafael Lugo-Gaming  
Shirley MacLennan-Switchboard  
Rebecca Napoli-Coconut Creek Smoke Shop  
Milo Osceola-Recreation  
Velma Osceola-Receptionist/Accounting  
Giusseppe Rende-Utilities  
Kristy Thielbar-Gaming  
Troy Tiger-Broadcasting  
Shaun Willie-Housing  
LaTonya Galindo - Gaming  
Doreen Michelle Osceola - Gaming



Jessica Cohen



Velma Osceola



Richard Garza



Doreen Michelle Osceola and LaTonya Galindo



Kristy Thielbar

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Seminole Casino News

**BRIGHTON SEMINOLE BINGO AND GAMING** — Highway 721, Brighton Indian Reservation, Route 6, Box 611, Okeechobee, FL. 34974. (800) 360-9875.

This St. Patrick's Day the luck of the Irish may rub off on you. Special St. Patrick's Day session includes food, party favors, fun, excitement and larger than ever payouts.

Over \$23,000 in Regular Game payouts will be paid in one evening Bingo session. Special session with 20 regular games each paying \$1,199. Between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. everyone who purchases a ticket for this session will receive an authentic Irish dinner buffet.

Tickets for the special St. Patrick's Day session go on sale March 1. Cost is \$100 per person (\$95 for Players Club members) in advance or \$110 at the door on the 17th.

The celebration will continue throughout the casino with special gifts and buffet for patrons in the Poker room, video gaming, and lounge areas. Make your plans now to celebrate St. Patrick's Day at Brighton Seminole Bingo and Gaming.

Every Wednesday night during March, you can purchase a special \$10 Bingo pack with all regular games paying \$150.

Brighton Gaming would also like to announce its big money winners for the month of February. Congratulations go to Annie Mayo Baillie, on winning the Super 6 Lotto Jackpot of \$19,720.17; Mary Ann Johnson, of Okeechobee won, \$9,642 on Bingo Sweetheart Game; and Mohamed L. Yakoub, Port St. Lucie won, \$6,597.71 on Super 6 Lotto.

**COCONUT CREEK CASINO** — 5550 N.W. 40th St., Coconut Creek, FL. 33073. (954) 977-6700.

Casino celebrates One Year Anniversary in March. Festivities scheduled as follows: March 22nd- Center Stage inside the Casino: The Fabulons from 7:30 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. performing a mix of hits from the 50s and 60s.

March 23rd- Center Stage inside the Casino: Recording Artist, Jessi James & Band from 9 p.m. – 1 a.m. performing top 40 Hits.

March 24th – Center Stage inside the Casino: p.m. featuring Shelina from 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. performing Top 40 Hits and latin mix. Michael Welch & Cutting Edge from 3:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. performing R&B sounds of the 70s & 80s. The Broward Brass Orchestra from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. performing Big Band and Swing tunes. Latin recording artist, Max Montana & Ocean Sound from 10:30 p.m. – 2 a.m. performing salsa, flamingo, samba and meringue.

Outside the casino: Fireworks on the Casino Lake at 8 p.m. Majic 102.7FM Diner and DJ, Joe Johnson from 7 p.m. – 10 p.m. performing oldies mix. Games, free hot dogs, soda, and ice cream from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. For the kids, Miss Paula will be doing face painting from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. and Billy Joe Bob will be creating balloon animals from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

March 25th – Center Stage inside the Casino: The Togetherness Band from 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. performing Reggae and Calypso. The Charlie Brown Band featuring Yvonne from 2:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. performing jazz and a Tribute to Billie Holiday. Shelly & The Fabbones from 6 p.m. – 9 p.m. performing hits from the 50s and 60s. Twice as Nice featuring Westley Stevens and Shelly Dartzet from 9:30 p.m. – 12 a.m. performing pop, R&B and Jazz.

March 25th – Outside the casino: Antique

and Classic Car Show from 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. Over 100 autos on display There will also be "Celebrity Look-A-Likes" on site. Prizes will be given away throughout Saturday and Sunday (trips, electronics, gift certificates, cash). Casino T-shirts, auto visors will be given out throughout the day.

Harley-Davidson motorcycle promo from 12 midnight March 23 to 12 midnight March 25 – the first person who hits a \$200,000 or more jackpot at the Coconut Creek Casino will not only win the cash but a Harley- Davidson. **SEMINOLE INDIAN CASINO OF HOLLYWOOD** — 4150 N. S.R. 7, Hollywood, FL. 33021. (954) 961-3220 or (800) 323-5452.

There's a great month planned for March. Bingo will be \$5 off every Monday – Wednesday during the matinee session. Triple nickel nights will be held every Wednesday. Friday nights discounts are \$2 off the \$22 pack, \$3 off the \$33 pack and \$4 off the \$44 pack.

On St. Patrick's Day, March 17, Bingo will be giving out gift baskets and there will be managers' specials all day. In addition to these special events a super bank that is now open on the gaming floor.

The casino still pays out over \$1 million a day on average. There are 48 poker tables to try your skill, plus free lessons for every level of player.

**IMMOKALEE SEMINOLE INDIAN CASINO** — 506 S. First St., Immokalee, FL. 34142. (941) 658-1313 or (800) 218-0007.

It's finally here – Lucky 7th Anniversary Celebration will be \$75,000 in cash, drawings, and prizes to be given away.

On March 10, the festivities kick off with all JPC members receiving an anniversary T-shirt when they play the matinee or evening session. Some of the T-shirts will have a sticker that could be worth \$500 in the matinee and \$1,000 in the evening session. If you're not a JPC member yet, you can sign up anytime prior to the session.

St. Patrick's Day, March 17, each winner of the Intermission Special will win a \$100 voucher to the March Super Saturday session and also get a chance at more money when they select one of the Lucky Leprechaun's Gold Coins worth \$50 – \$200.

Super Saturday, March 31, there will be seven \$1,000 cash drawings starting at 3 p.m. and a Grand Prize drawing of \$10,000 at midnight. It only takes one ticket to win, but the more you collect the

more chances you have at the big money. Casino, Poker, and Bingo players have all month long to collect their tickets.

The evening begins in Bingo at 5 p.m. with four sets of party games. At 7 p.m. The pack includes 20 regular games paying \$1,199 each. The Four Corner and Seminole Blackout consolations are also \$1,199 each. The Bonanza and Super Jackpot consolations will pay a Must Go \$5,000 each. All extras during the evening session are two for the price of one except the D.I.Y.'s.

The casino has received such positive responses to the new Friday evening Texas Hold'em Hi-Lo Tournaments that they have decided to continue them throughout the month of March starting at 7 p.m. Don't forget the Cruise/Trip drawing on March 10 for weekly tournament entrants.

— *Compiled by Libby Blake.*

## Festival

Continued from page 1

Dancers out of Mexico City brought their special form of dancing to Seminole Country performing at the Tribal Fair and Brighton Field Days. They will continue the season with performances at the Celebration Pow-wow.

Native Diva, Paula Bowers rocked the crowd at the Laura Mae Osceola Hall during performances at Tribal Fair in Hollywood. Blackhawk Blues Band returned to the stadium again this year with their own special blend of blues and Native America.

Chief Jim Billie also took to the stage with a mix of songs from all five of his CD's. Chief Billie's music is a unique blend of traditional Native American music with blues, rock, country, calypso, and reggae.

Singing cowboy Johnny U and his band performed during Brighton Field Days. This multi-talented musician and storyteller holds the audience in his hands as he entertains from horseback performing rope tricks.

Brighton welcomed some special guests this year from the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. Two charter buses, filled with senior citizens, attended the Field Day events along with side trips to Big Cypress Reservation. They were joined by Seminole Nation Tribal Chairman Jerry Haney and Councilman Rich Deer.

Color Guard Veteran Willard Underwood and dancers Nora Deere and Nellie Tiger also represented the Seminole Nation performing with drummers Bird Chopper from Cherokee, N.C. Rick Bird, patriarchal head of Bird Chopper, brought along family members Kelsie, Gwen, and Kara Welch. Son Nicholas Bird entertained the crowd with special

## Buffy

Continued from page 1

the Powwow arena, site of a full-fledged competition powwow. This year's event will feature several "winner take all" specials and a drum contest. With the cancellation of Blackstone, Oklahoma's fabulous Little Eagle will take on the host drum role. Powwow coordinators will be Katrina and Little Big Mountain; Arena Director is the popular Ron Gibson.

The Aboriginal People's Television Network will be in town to film the event for a documentary now in production. They plan to concentrate on the powwow, but will also film at the Seminole Living Village area, where Tribal medicine man Bobby Henry will feature several Seminole stomp dance demonstrations, the Marketplace stage (which fea-

tures Native reggae stars Tchiya Ahmet and the Light House band all day) and the Pepsi Children's Village (directed by national children's artist Shana Banana).

The a capella singing trio Ulali, swamp cowboy Cowbone (Paul Buster and band), Chief Jim Billie, Commanche flautist Sonny Nevaquaya, storytellers Mahenwahdose and Indian bluesman Keith Secola will be featured on several stages, as will the Aztec Fire Dancers and the popular Seminole Youth Dancers. Comedian Don Burnstick will emcee the main stage.

Billie Swamp Safari will sponsor the Ray Becerra Birds of Prey show; Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum will provide Seminole cultural demonstrators and storyteller Carol Cypress. Seminole gator wrestler Thomas Storm Sr. will bring his exciting alligator and reptile show for two shows each day.

The gates open each day at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

## Indian Country News

### Gorton May Get Key Judgeship

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — All but one Senate Republican has urged President George W. Bush to nominate American Indian enemy and former Sen. Slade Gorton (R-Wash.) for a lifetime federal judgeship on either the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia or the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, which is based on the West Coast. Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.), already in hot water with his colleagues over a host of legislative issues, is the only GOP senator who did not sign a letter promoting Gorton

because he opposes the Washington Republican's position on Native American issues.

"Senator McCain declined to sign the letter because he strongly disagrees with Senator Gorton on American Indian issues involving tribal sovereignty," said Nancy Ives, McCain's spokeswoman. "Most Native Americans are concentrated in the western part of the country, and cases involving this issue would fall under the jurisdiction of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

### Wisc. Tribes Get Trust Land For Casino

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — Department of the Interior Deputy Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs James H. McDivitt today announced his approval of an application to take into trust a 55-acre parcel of land located in Hudson, Wisc., for three federally-recognized Indian Tribes for gaming purposes. McDivitt determined it would be in

the best interest of the Tribes without being detrimental to the surrounding community. The application was submitted on March 4, 1994 by the Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community of Wisconsin and the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin.

### Seeking Indian Journalists

**VERMILLION, S.D.** — The Freedom Forum will fully fund and run an academic journalism program for American Indian college students June 3-29 at the University of South Dakota here. Six semester hours of credit will be awarded to graduates of the month-long course. The American Indian Journalism Institute will offer 25 college-level Native American students the opportunity to train as newspaper reporters, editors and photographers. The Freedom Forum Neuharth Center will pay all costs, including tuition, fees, room and board, and it will give students who successfully complete the program an \$800 scholarship/stipend. The six-hour college-level course is sanctioned through the University's Department of Contemporary Media and Journalism, a nationally-credited journalism department. Students may apply to transfer the credits to other schools where they enrolled.

"American Indians are by far the most underrepresented people of color in the news media – and stereotypical and erroneous newspaper coverage of Indian issues and Indian people shows it," said McAuliffe. Estimates of the number of Native Americans working at daily newspapers range up to about 300 – out of more than 55,000 journalists nationwide

The American Indian Journalism Institute

is an outgrowth of The Freedom Forum's recent multimillion-dollar commitment to increase employment diversity at daily newspapers. "Improving diversity – having just one Native American working in a newsroom – makes a newspaper more aware of Indians in its community, and more sensitive and intelligent in reporting stories about them," said Jack Marsh, director of The Freedom Forum Neuharth Center at the University of South Dakota.

Participants may be nominated by educators, mentors or other interested parties. Nominating letters should be received by May 1, 2001 and addressed to: Jack Marsh, Director, Freedom Forum Neuharth Center, University of South Dakota, Vermilion, S.D. 57069. Nomination letters should include brief explanations of why nominees should be accepted into the institute and how they can be contacted. Nominees then will be invited to provide further information about themselves and an example of their writing, such as an essay about why they want to attend. Self-nominations also are welcome, as are nominations by e-mail (jmarsh@freedomforum.org).

For further information, call Jack Marsh, Director, Freedom Forum Neuharth Center, at (605) 677-6315, or McAuliffe at (406) 243-2191 or by e-mail (dmcauliffe@freedomforum.org).

### Act Strengthens Tribal Justice

**BOULDER, CO** — Indian law attorneys and tribal courts say that the recently passed Indian Tribal Justice Technical and Legal Assistance Act (PL 106-559) is an important step forward in the strengthening and enhancement of tribal justice systems. The Act formally authorizes the Attorney General to award grants and provide technical assistance to Indian Tribes to support the development and continuing operation of tribal courts.

National and regional tribal justice associations have been working hard, primarily on a voluntary basis, for decades to assist Tribes with the operation of their tribal courts systems. This law makes the associations and Native American legal services organizations eligible to apply for much-needed federal funding to assist them in their efforts. An important component of the new law is the reauthorization of the 1993 Indian Justice Act.

### 'Lost Funds' Must Be Accounted For

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — The U.S. Interior and Treasury Depts. must own up to American Indians regarding how much money was lost from trust accounts since the 19th century due to mismanagement, theft and incompetence an appeals court ruled – a court victory for more than

300,000 Indians seeking more than \$10 billion they say is owed them from government usage of their land. "This is one of the biggest victories for Native Americans ever," said Eloise Cobell (Blackfeet), a leader of the lawsuit.

### Indian Languages Dying-Institute

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Money isn't necessarily the solution to the problem of disappearing American Indian languages, said Gerald Hill, president of the Institute for the Preservation of the Original Languages of America, noting that 100 indigenous languages are in a serious decline in the United States. "However, what costs money is competing with the English language. You need

certified, degreed language teachers." Sen. Daniel Inouye, a Hawaii Democrat who serves as vice-chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, responded to Hill's remarks before his committee by introducing legislation that would direct more money to specialized "language immersion" programs.

### S.D. Tribe Gets \$6.7 Million For School

**ABERDEEN, S.D.** — The Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribe in northeastern South Dakota is getting a \$6.7 million federal grant from the Bureau of Indian Affairs to replace Tiospa Zina School with a 40,000 square-foot facility for

kindergartners through 12th-graders. "We've been fighting to get something done for so long now. It's a dream come true," said Superintendent Roger Bordeaux.

### 'Pretty Shield' Dead At Age 70

**VALENTINE, NEB.** — The Lakota woman who translated the script for *Dances With Wolves* and appeared in the film has died at age 70. Doris Leader Charge of Parmelee died at Sinte Gleska University here, where she was a long-time Lakota language teacher. She portrayed Pretty Shield, wife of Ten Bears in the 1989 Oscar-win-

ning film that starred actor Kevin Costner. Leader Charge was Costner's special guest at the 1991 Academy Awards ceremonies. She went on stage to translate into Lakota part of screenwriter Michael Blake's acceptance speech for best screenplay – one of seven Oscars won by the film that year.

### New Indian Bills Filed In Senate, House

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — Sen Daniel K. Akaka filed S.228: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the Native American veterans housing loan program; Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell filed S.231: A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to ensure that seniors are given an opportunity to serve as mentors, tutors, and volunteers for certain programs; Rep. George Miller

filed H.R.340: To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to improve the quality of public education and raise student achievement by increasing investment, strengthening accountability, raising standards for teachers, improving professional development and teacher compensation, rewarding successful schools, and providing better information to parents, and for other purposes.

### BIA Issues Final Land In Trust Rules

**WASHINGTON D.C.** — The Bureau of Indian Affairs has issued a final rule governing requests by tribes that the Secretary of the Interior acquire title to land in trust on their behalf. This rule establishes the criteria the Secretary will use in determining whether to accept such title and describes the procedures for mandatory acquisition of title by the Secretary. The rule contains a presumption favoring acquisition of lands located within a tribe's reservation, but has a stricter standard for off-reservation lands. Some of these restrictions are an attempt to meet the concerns of non-Indian governments regarding the placing of non-reservation lands into trust. The final rule also attempts to deal with the problems of those tribes without reservations, trust land, or developable

trust land and establishes a process under which such a tribe may designate a "Tribal Land Acquisition Area" for approval by the Secretary.

BIA also issued a new rule that potentially affects any loan from a qualified borrower to an Indian or organization of Indians under the Loan Guaranty, Insurance, and Interest Subsidy Program. Under the Program, the Department of the Interior guarantees or insures such loans made by qualified private lenders. The final rule was effective Feb. 16, 2001 and applies to all qualifying loans made on or after that date. Lenders with pre-existing loan guarantees may have the new rule apply to their loans by entering into a new loan guaranty agreement with the Bureau.

— *Compiled by Peter B. Gallagher*





A "Warrior" is sworn to protect the safety of all children in the village and give up his life freely.

*Teacher, Father, Grandfather, Warrior.*

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## Health Corner



RUNNERS, WALKERS, STROLLERS: Participants of the Third Annual Tribal Fair Run/Walk event.

## Run/Walk Results

**HOLLYWOOD** — It was a family affair at the Third Annual Tribal Fair Run/Walk held Saturday, Feb. 10 during the Tribal Fair. The 3K course began at Native Village, where participants young and old lined the start, and finished at the Hollywood Community Center (old Hot Meals) on 64th Street.

Jeremiah Hall took the honors by crossing the finish line first. This was Jeremiah's second big win in the past several weeks, as he also took first place in last month's Reservation Rally held in Big Cypress.

James Fuqua took first place in the youth division and Loretta Peterson won in the women's category. All involved agreed it was an enjoyable way to begin the weekend during the Tribal Fair. Be sure to check with Hollywood Recreation Department for details regarding the upcoming Basketball Tournaments.

The results are:

**Youth Division – Walkers:** Beaver Hall,

25:49; Daylon Hall, 30:10. **Youth Division – Runners:** James Fuqua, 11:09, Joseph Fuqua, 18:27, Heather Peterson, 21:56. **Adult – 20 year olds – Walkers:** Danielle Bankston, 25:15, Elizabeth Huggins, 25:21, Jolene Story, 25:24, Randall Byrd, 25:36. **Adult – 20 year olds – Runners:** Richard Osceola, 14:02.

**Adult – 30 year olds – Walkers:** Bonnie Motlow, 22:00, Michele Thomas, 25:24, Theresa Osceola, 25:24, Geraldine L. Osceola, 25:36, Julie Best, 30:14. **Adult – 30 year olds – Runners:** Jeremiah Hall, 10:57, Loretta Peterson, 12:48, Noah Yzaguirre. **Adult – 40 year olds – Walkers:** Wanda Billie, 20:30, Ralph Billie, 28:50, Daniel Gopher, 29:16.

**Adult – 40 year olds – Runners:** Jimmy Osceola, 14:32. **Senior Division – Walkers:** Martha Jones, 19:36, Gladys Bratcher, 19:59, Edna McDuffy, 24:51, Connie Whidden, 24:51, Russell Osceola, 29:16.

## Good Bye Toni

*I know that good-byes are in order with almost every friend. Shakespeare once said, "parting is such a sweet sorrow." I guess he was right, because I miss you already. I did for me – knowing I really appreciate what you did for me – inspiring me to do better with my health and just being such a sweet person that you are.*

*Hen-the will miss you, too, at T.Y. Park (squirrel). I am sure that there are other folks who will miss you, too. I hope the health program will find someone to fill the vacancy, but I don't know if that person can replace a good worker like you.*

*Well, I hope that you will find what God has for you to do, and if for some reason you need*

*an old friend to talk to, you know where I am. Whenever you are cold and there's no sunshine, think about the Seminoles in sunny Florida and maybe you just might want to visit us here again.*

*In the meantime, you keep yourself doing what you do best because I just might be running in the same marathon you're running. (I wouldn't hold my breath on that, but I might!).*

*Sure hate to see you go, but life does go on and we have to do what we think is best. I will pray you will be happy, because you deserve the best in life.*

*Hem-mung-ala-ka  
Your Friend, Cowbone*

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## Discover Native America 2001 Musical Artists

**Buffy Sainte-Marie** (Cree) is a true American folk legend and has been a strong symbol of native culture and education for more than 30 years. Buffy first made her mark as a singer and songwriter in the turbulent 60s, popular for her anti-war ballad "Universal Soldier." Janis Joplin, Barbra Streisand, Elvis Presley, The Highwaymen, Neil Diamond, Tracy Chapman and The Boston Pops Orchestra are prominent among many artists who have recorded her songs. Later, she starred for five years on the hit Children's television show *Sesame Street* and became the first Native American to win an Academy Award as the songwriter of "Up Where We Belong," from the Oscar-winning "Officer and A Gentleman." She founded the Nihewan Foundation for American Indian Education in 1969, the innovative Cradleboard Project in the early 1980s and received the American Indian College Fund's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2000. Maintaining a separate career as a noted digital artist, she spends much of her time deeply involved in educational pursuits.



Buffy Sainte-Marie

Comanche Indian Flutes from his father, one of the Seven Legends of the Comanche Tribe of Oklahoma. By invitation, both father and son have assisted the Smithsonian American Flute Music. Sonny has performed at the inauguration of the first George Bush and at "The Wall" in Washington, D. C. He has lectured on flutes and Indian music from Oklahoma to Florida. He creates his own flutes and music, personal melodic signatures that both excite and soothe the senses and provide a classic and authentic atmosphere to the powwow scene.

**Tchiya Amet** (Seminole, Cherokee, Creole, Blackfeet) and the Light House Band are making their mark, nationally, with an unusual combination of native and reggae

sounds. Their latest album "Rise Again Truth" is a regular on both Indian Country and reggae playlists. Lead singer Tchiya has pursued careers as a naturopathic physician, astronaut and space astronomer on her path to stardom behind her keyboard with the Light House band. Yoga, fancy shawl dancing and organic gardening are a few of the passions of this eclectic performer. Standing on a strong and solid Roots Reggae foundation, Tchiya, husband Mario and their band of musical artists carry the wisdom and the teachings of the elders forward into the future.



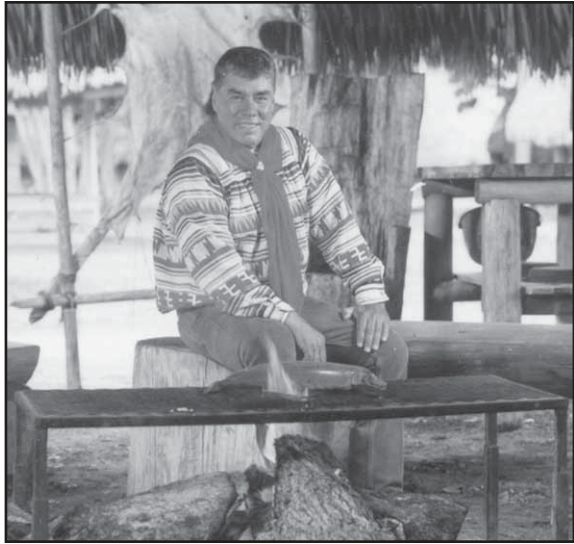
Tchiya Amet

**Cowbone** (Seminole) is country singer, poet, columnist and songwriter Paul Buster and his family, including daughter Jessica of Hollywood. Both Paul and Jessica have new CDs out this year, filled with the rich rural sounds that mark their unique music. Favorites at Seminole and Florida swamp country events, Cowbone accurately portrays the music and people of their unique world.

**Don Burnstick** (Cree) describes his comedy as "healing through humor." His hilarious routines take a humorous look at first nation's peoples, their habits, likes and dislikes, and interactions with this non-Indian world. A certified Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselor trained in holistic urban youth development, Don appears often at wellness conferences and training workshops throughout North America. With his "Don Burnstick's Redskin Club" he joins a growing list of American Indian comedians now making their mark on the national scene.

**Aztec Fire Dancers** (Aztec) are the Juan Salinas family from Mexico City. Now based in Jacksonville, this troupe appears regularly on the American Indian powwow circuit and are popular for their elaborate colorful costumes and vibrant native dances. They have appeared in every Discover Native America event since the 1980s.

**Seminole Youth Dancers** (Seminole) are sponsored by the Tribe's Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum and include Micco Billie, Kowako Billie, Casey McCall and Christine McCall. Though the Seminoles do not have a heritage of powwow dancing, this young troupe – led by acclaimed Seminole songwriter/singer/drummer William Cypress – has learned the ways and moves of cultural dances in the traditions of other tribes.



Chief Jim Billie

**Chief Jim Billie** (Seminole) has been Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida since 1979 and a singer/songwriter since his youth in the swamps of South Florida. A winner of the Native American Music Association's Living Legend Award, he has released two national records "Alligator Tales" and "Seminole Fire" — collections of his unique personal songs and stories. The Chief is one of Indian Country's most famous statesmen and entertainers and is known around the world as an advocate for the preservation of indigenous language and culture.

**Keith Secola** (Ashinabe) grew up in the Mesabi Iron Range of Northern Minnesota to become one of Indian Country's top male performers. He is the author of such Indian classics as "Fry Bread," "Indian Cars," "Fruit Flies Like A Banana" and "Acoustic Aroma." His music has been used in numerous native films, including "Dance Me Outside" by Norman Jewison, and he has performed with the likes of Jerry Garcia, David Bowie, Patti Smith, Indigo Girls, Robby Robertson, Neil Young and oth-



Keith Secola



Jennifer, Soni and Pura Fe of Ulali

ers. As a solo artist or with his Wild Indian Band, Keith Secola is a haunting and sincere performer with amusical integrity unmatched among American Indian artists.

**Ulali** features the vocal talents of native songbirds Pura Fe (Tuscarora), Soni (Mayan, Apache, Yaqui) and Jennifer (Tuscarora) in Indian Country's top female singing trio. Founded in 1987, Ulali is the first native woman's group to create a personal sound from their strong individual roots and personal contemporaries. Unusual harmonies, a wide vocal and musical range and an array of indigenous music are transformed into works of art by their powerful voices. Their live performances uniquely address native struggles and are delivered with energy, fun and romance.

**Lean "Sonny" Nevaquaya** (Comanche) learned the art of creating



Sonny Nevaquaya



Will Hill of Mahenwahdose

**Mahenwahdose** (Oklahoma Seminole) is Will Hill and Gennine Washington. Their theatre group has won national acclaim for American Indian cultural shows across the country. They use vocal impersonations and acrobatics to bring Seminole legends to real life. Dancing around an imaginary campfire in the days when animals and people could talk to each other, Will and Gennine bring vivid substance to the lessons of the storyteller's craft. They performed the "Shah-who-pah-ye-ke" musical storytelling tour with Chief Jim Billie at Florida Indian reservations last year.

**Shana Banana** is a national children's artist based in St. Petersburg whose latest CD "Shana Banana: Music And Fun For Kids" was awarded the coveted Parents Choice Award in 2001. A graduate of Eckerd College with a masters degree in marine biology, Shana Smith has pursued a musical career for the past ten years, finding her niche in the childrens' market. A tireless researcher, she works closely with Seminole Chief Jim Billie and has performed special Seminole Indian-themed shows for Florida schools and festivals. A Radio Disney Artist, she will direct the DNA Pepsi Children's Village for the third straight year.



# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday

**Happy Birthday to Ekosh**  
**Minnie Tigertail** on Feb. 2. Wish you the greatest on your very special day. From **Sharon O.**

**Happy Belated 17th Birthday**  
**Mary Tiger** on Jan. 14. We hope all your dreams and wishes come true. From **Wesley Frank, Sharon O., Elaine Osceola, Samuel C. Osceola Jr., “sexy” Lexie Osceola, and Carlos Capilla.**

I want to wish a **Happy 20th Birthday** on Feb. 1. **Samuel C. Osceola Jr.** Wishing you the best on your special day. Love always, **Sharon O.**

We want to wish the best **20th birthday** ever on Feb. 1, **Sam Osceola Jr.** Have fun on your day! From **Mary Tiger, Wesley Frank, Sharon O., and Carlos Capilla.**

## Deadlines

### Seminole Tribune

March 23 Issue • Deadline March 9  
April 13 Issue • Deadline March 30  
May 4 Issue • Deadline April 20

## Congratulations



**Congratulations to Miss Rhiannon Dianne Tiger** for making the Silver Honor Roll for the 1st quarter and the 2nd quarter of the school year. Proud parents are Charlie and Ginger T. Tiger. We love you Rhiannon, Keep up the Good Work!

**Love Mom and Dad (Charlie and Ginger), Deandra and Brown (Charlie III).**

## Thank You

We want to thank everyone for your help, condolences, flowers, and sympathy in our time of need. We especially want to thank Barbara Billie, Laura Tucker, Larissa Tucker, Ginger Tiger, and Juanita Osceola for all the work you did to prepare the food and clean up after everyday, for going shopping for us, and helping us through this difficult time.

Thank you to Max Osceola for your help with the tents and seating, food, and everything that you did to help.

Thank you to Marcellus and Eatu

Osceola for supplying the coolers and keeping them filled. And thank you John Gentry for loaning us your tent, tables, and benches.

Thanks to everyone who made this possible as there were many of you, too many to be able to thank each of you personally.

**Joseph Richardson, Jackson Richardson, Daisy Tiger and Tommy Richardson.**

## Notices

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

**Midlands Intertribal Empowerment Group's 6th Annual Powwow** — May 18-20, Columbia, S.C., at the S.C. Fairgrounds, Aernathy Arena. Dance, drum, and craft contests with prizes over \$5,000. Contact Mordella Goodshield McKinney (803) 772-9132 or e-mail at [mieg@powwows.com](mailto:mieg@powwows.com). Vendors contact Tracey Hutchins (803) 254-9442 at [vendors@nativeamerica.ws](mailto:vendors@nativeamerica.ws).

**Shellman GA 2nd Intertribal Gathering of Native Americans** — March 23-25, Shellman City Park, GA, next to the Railroad Depot. Sponsored by The Southern Band of the Cherokee, Deer Clan of Shellman. Crafts, culture, entertainment, Native American foods, and storytelling. For more information call Chief Big Water (229) 679-2080 or Patricia Davis (229) 423-8590.

**Seventh Inter-Tribal Golf Invitational** — July 18-20. Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation presents 2001, 7th Inter-Tribal Golf Tournament. 2001 Purse \$14,400 at the Foxwoods Country Club and River Ridge Golf Club. For more information call Steve Tantillo (860) 396-6727, fax (860) 396-6723 or e-mail at [stantillo@mptn.org](mailto:stantillo@mptn.org). Closing deadline is July 1st.

**Child Care Data Available on the Web** — The Child Care Licensing and Enforcement Section of Broward County's Human Services Department Children's Services Administration Division has assembled a website of information and inspection reports on licensed or registered child care facilities

and homes in the county. The site is searchable by name of child care facility, by address, by zip code, by street intersections, and by clicking on a county map. To reach the site, simply click on: [www.broward.org/children](http://www.broward.org/children).

**Tunica-Biloxi Powwow** — Marksaville, La. — May 18-20. Guest entertainers – Bill Miller, Hawk (Indian Flute), Jackie Crow (Legend Keeper), Adolpho Family Hoop Dancers, Grayhawk Stomp Dancers and Home Grown.

Grand Entries – Friday, May 18 at 7 p.m., Saturday, May 19 at 1 and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 20 at 12 noon. Points start with Saturday Grand Entry.

Registration begins at 5 p.m. Friday, May 18 until 12 noon Saturday, May 19.

Drums welcome – Day money will be available for the first ten drums registered by 12 noon, Saturday.

Public invited – Admission \$1 kids (10 & under), \$3 seniors (65 & older), \$4 adults. Dancers in regalia enter free. Campers must register. Shuttle service provided from Grand Casino Avoyelles to the Powwow grounds.

For lodging and general information call (800) 946-1946. Vendors must apply in advance. Ask for Wendy at Ext. 2036.

**Interpreting Sacred Places and Native Peoples Spring Training Workshop** — April 3-7 Ala Moana Hotel, Honolulu, HI. Join us for the dynamic multicultural NAI Spring Training Workshop STW in Hawaii. Sponsored by the National Association for Interpretation. This hands-on workshop at the Ala Moana Hotel in Honolulu features a lively inspiring array of keynote speakers several dozen concurrent and training sessions field training special events and pre- and post-workshop training on the various neighbor islands. The STW is specially designed to help you better interpret and share the awesome stories of indigenous and ethnic cultures from many lands. Register now. Book your rooms early at the special NAI rates at the Ala Moana Hotel, mention NAI Spring Training Workshop. To see all the details on this unique international event go to [www.interpnet.com](http://www.interpnet.com) or call NAI toll-free at (888) 900-8283.

## The Train Ride Blues

Let me tell you a little bit about my dad. Move in a little closer to the fire and I will tell you a story about a young boy who grew up around the Deep Lake area. It is approximately 20 miles more or less from Everglades City or Immokalee.

It was in 1926 when Junior Buster, my dad was born. His parents (my Grand Parents) were life long residents in those cypress swamps near Copeland, Jerome, and of course Deep Lake. Grandpa's name was John and Grandma's name was Lilly. Grandpa was of the Wind clan and Grandma was from the Panther clan. I believe Grandma was closely related to Susie Jim of today and Miami Billie from 1800s to early 1900s. I never had the honor of meeting any of my grandparents, except Grandpa John Buster (you can hear about him in one of my songs).

Due to being Seminole Indian and other unfortunate circumstances, Grandpa would be arrested for killing a squirrel or turkey to provide food for his family. He would be incarcerated for month's at-a-time. My Dad was a little boy at that time; he missed his Dad so very much that he would go on a long journey to see him.

My Dad was a little boy when he left home in the swamps to go visit his father. In those days, there was a logging train that came by from Palmdale to Everglades almost every morning and evening. Dad knew when the train would be passing by, so he would come out by the tracks and wait for the train to come by. When the train came into sight, dad flagged it down and hopped it to Everglades, where he would spend a day outside the compound of the prison.

Grandpa would come to him and give him some crackers that he had saved for him. When the day was spent, Dad would catch the evening train and go home to his mother. I guess the train engineer knew my Dad very well in those days.

Because of These experiences, I wrote a song about my Dad's train rides when he was a little boy — “Lonesome Train Blues.”

— Cowbone

## Lonesome Train Blues

*I got my ramblin' blood  
Running restless in my veins  
So I grip my blues guitar  
And head for the lonesome train*

*No one can change my mind  
No one can ease my pain  
So I'm leaving like I said  
And ride that big lonesome train*

*I can hear that lonesome whistle  
And I can hear that morning rain  
'don't want my guitar to get wet  
So 'better run and catch the lonesome train*

*First class seat in the boxcar  
Let it roll thru the plains  
I don't mind where she goes  
Just let me ride the lonesome train*

*There's nothing a man can do  
When the lonesome wind calls his name  
Nothin' 'cept up and go  
And ride that big lonesome train*

— Cowbone Paul Buster

## Poems

### The Man With No Shoes

(for Guy LaBree)

*Gifted by the Breathgiver, his visions are portrayed in scenes a different realm.*

*His hand transcends the life of those he depicts with brush and pen.*

*He becomes a part of those as on canvas he reveals a different place and time.*

*Simplicity runs rampant as the colors reveal a different place and time.*

*Barefoot and humble his soul studies the inhabitants as they help mystify the glade.*

*Soon the panoramic vision unfolds the splendor and beauty of a land and people the creator made.*

*The barefoot man understands and respects the stories as he paints and brings them all to reality,*

*The clans, the legends, the people forever etched into history.*

*Respect of values was given to the man who wore no shoes, perhaps not in blood, but in spirit he understands the four-legged and two-legged stewards of the 'glades.*

*With this we understand he stereotypes no people, but paints from the spirit that touches his hand.*

*Perhaps one day my Brother, we will walk barefoot together into the spirit land.*

*“The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth . . . From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though He is not far from us each one of us.”  
(Acts 17:24-27)*

— Moses Jumper Jr.

## My heart dances for the Lord

*The law of the Lord  
Is in perfect timing  
There's never a doubt  
In my heart and in my soul*

*Testimony for my Lord  
Is a light-always shining  
My heart daces with joy  
Happiness of happiness to behold*

*My heart dances for the Lord  
Two step, dosey doe for joy  
My heart dances for the Lord  
My hope in Jesus, nothin' will destroy*

*Your heart is waiting too  
For the same joy as I have  
Don't let it wait too long  
Or you'll lose it in world's turmoil*

*Desire for God's Love is  
More than much fine gold  
God's love is sweeter than honey  
Sweater than honeybee's toil*

**Hem-mung-ala-ka  
Cowbone**

## Job Announcements

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

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

**Job Title:** Gaming Investigator  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Gaming  
**Salary:** \$19,650 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Gaming Inspector (5)  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hollywood, Gaming  
**Salary:** \$28,000 w/benefits

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

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

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

**Job Title:** Secretary

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

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

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

**Job Title:** Maintenance Worker  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Brighton, Building & Grounds  
**Salary:** \$14,560 w/benefits

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

**Job Title:** Tribal Outreach/Worker  
**Open Date:** Feb. 14, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Family Services  
**Salary:** \$20,300 w/benefits

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

**Job Title:** Maintenance Worker  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001

**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki  
**Salary:** \$16,640 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Medical Social Worker  
**Open Date:** Feb. 14, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Family Services  
**Salary:** \$37,000 w/benefits

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

**Job Title:** Speech Therapist  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Ahfachkee  
**Salary:** Negotiable w/benefits Depending on level of experience

**Job Title:** Teachers Aide  
**Open Date:** Jan. 31, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Ahfachkee  
**Salary:** \$13,644 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Transporter  
**Open Date:** Feb. 22, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Big Cypress, Health  
**Salary:** \$16,432 w/benefits

**Job Title:** Teachers Aide (3/4 yr. Class)  
**Open Date:** Feb. 7, 2001  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Immokalee, Preschool  
**Salary:** \$18,150 w/benefits

If interested contact Human Resources at 967-3403 or fax resume to 967-3477.

## Land Use Applications

Tribal Ordinance No. C-01-92 requires that applications for the use or occupancy of Seminole lands must be filed in the Real Estate Services office for review by the Development Review Committee and the Land Use Commission before submittal to the Tribal Council.

Applications are available at the following locations: Hollywood Reservation at the Real Estate Service office, Big Cypress Reservation from Joe Frank at the Forestry Department, Brighton Reservation contact Michelle Thomas at the Field Office, Immokalee Reservation at the Field Office. Tampa Reservation must go to the Real Estate Services office in Hollywood.

The Development Review Committee generally meets two (2) weeks prior to the next regular scheduled meeting of the Tribal Council. Land Use

Commission generally meets one (1) week prior to that Tribal Council meeting. This means applications should be filed with Real Estate Services no later than 2½ weeks prior to an upcoming regular meeting of the Tribal Council. Any applications received after a Development Review Committee meeting will be held until the next Development Review Committee and Land Use Commission meetings before being submitted to the Tribal Council.

Any questions as to application procedures or meeting date may be directed to Real Estates Services at (954) 966-6300 Ext. 101.



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## Chickee Baptist Church

64th Ave. and Josie Billie  
Hollywood Seminole Reservation

Sunday Morning Worship 10 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship 6 a.m.  
Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Rev. Arlen Payne: Pastor  
(954) 894-5651





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