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The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

“Voice of the Unconquered”

\$1.00

www.seminoletribe.com

Volume XXI Number 4

March 24, 2000

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

Williams’ Supporters Pack Council Meeting

By E. Bowers

HOLLYWOOD — The March 9 Seminole Tribal Council meeting was packed with parents from the Hollywood, Brighton, and Big Cypress Reservations who came to show their support for Tribal member Leona Williams, Parent Involvement Coordinator for the Pre-school program.

Williams, who has been acting Director of Seminole Pre-School Programs since the leaving of Rondelle Clay, was upset that she was passed over for the the permanent Director position.

Brought in by Operations Officer Tim Cox to help Education Officer Vivian Crooks with curriculum development, Dr. Barbara Wilmes holds a Ph.D in Administration Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis on Early Childhood and Early Childhood Education.

Williams pointed to the large turnout from other reservations as a sign of trust that she -- a Tribal member -- was capable of serving as Director. “If the reservations didn’t believe

See COUNCIL, page 5

Shopping Cart Arrives At Tribe’s Home Page

By Teresa Robotham

HOLLYWOOD — The Seminole Tribe has taken another technological step on the World Wide Web by enhancing our Marketplace at www.seminoletribe.com with the addition of a shopping cart program.

The Marketplace is the Tribe’s electronic storefront to the world, which went online in January 1998. Since then, customers have purchased various Seminole products from the Marketplace including dolls, baskets, clothing, music and much more.

Now shopping on the Tribe’s website just got easier with the installation of Talentsoft’s Web+Shop, a user-friendly e-commerce shopping cart application. Before this enhancement, shoppers had to enter their credit card and address information for every item that was purchased.

Now customers can browse through the Marketplace and add items to their virtual shopping cart with just a click. When they are finished shopping, they move to the checkout area by pressing the “checkout” button. New customers choose a unique login and password which allows them to conveniently store their address and shipping information in a secure database. Revisiting customers need only to login and enter their credit card number.

Just as before, the Marketplace is safeguarded by the most advanced programs commonly used by on-line vendors to insure a secure shopping environment. With this Marketplace enhancement, we hope to make shopping at the Tribe more convenient.

To use the Marketplace, visit the Tribe’s homepage at www.seminoletribe.com. Click on the Marketplace icon and start shopping! Questions or comments are welcome; send e-mail to trobotha@semtribe.com.

Proposed Budget Boosts Tribal Funds

WASHINGTON D.C. — The President, joined by tribal and congressional leaders, has called for passage of his \$9.4 billion Native American FY2001 budget initiative, an increase in funding of \$1.2 billion over FY 2000 — the largest increase ever.

Prior to the President’s statement, tribal leaders met at the White House with senior Administration officials to discuss the Native American initiative. This initiative recognizes that the entire federal government has a trust responsibility for Native American tribes. Accordingly, it provides funding across many agencies, rather than simply at the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Department of Health and Human Service’s Indian Health Service (IHS), both of which traditionally have provided the bulk of funding for Native American communities.

This initiative makes critical investments in education, health care, law enforcement, infrastructure, and economic development in Indian Country.

Some of the FY2001 Budget highlights are:
Educational Opportunities, School Construction and Repair. The budget more than doubles funding to \$300 million for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School Construction and Repair; \$10 million for Training and Recruiting New Native American Teachers; \$5 million for the new American Indian Administrator Corps; \$50 million in funding from the new School Renovation Loan and Grant Program; \$77 million, an increase of \$25 million, for tribal colleges;

Community Empowerment, New Markets and Digital Divide Initiatives: \$10 million to Address the Digital Divide; \$5 million for Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Expansion; \$4.5 million for Business Assistance at the Small Business Administration; \$1.25 Million to Expand Business LINC to Indian Country; \$650 Million, an increase of \$30 Million, in Block Grants for Indian Housing; \$10 Million Increase to \$53 Million to Strengthen Tribal Environmental Programs.

Public Safety: \$439 Million, an increase of \$103 Million, to Improve Law Enforcement in Indian Country;

See BUDGET page 18



GRAND OPENING: General Manager Jo-Lin Osceola would like to invite all Seminole Tribal members and employees to the grand opening of the 6,000-square-foot expansion of the Seminole’s brand new Coconut Creek Casino, March 25, at 10 a.m. Prizes -- ranging from microwaves and televisions to a car -- will be given out every hour. You must be 18 to enter the gaming building, but the whole family can have fun under the big tent outside. For more information or directions, call the Casino at (954) 977-6700.

Women Of Achievement

Portrait Honor For Betty Mae

By Vida Volkert

CORAL GABLES — Tribal matriarch Betty Mae Jumper has been included in Women of Achievement, a photographic documentary which highlights history-making women who have



Betty Mae Jumper at the Council Oak.

helped shape the legacy of the state of Florida.

Her photographic portrait, taken by noted photographer Scherley Busch, will join 45 others and be exhibited at the Omni Colonnade Hotel on March 28, during the Ninth Annual Millennium Reception.

“Betty Mae Jumper was selected because of her accomplishments, for what she did for her people,” said Busch of the series that highlights influential women. “She was the first elected chairman -- or chief -- of a major Indian tribe and she helped advance the medical care of her people. Betty Mae Jumper is truly a remarkable woman and an inspiration to everyone.”

Betty Mae is currently Director of Tribal Communications, which publishes the Seminole Tribune. Busch said the exhibit committee had been trying to honor Betty since 1998, but that scheduling conflicts kept her from doing the photographic portrait until recently.

Betty Mae Jumper’s portrait was taken Feb. 25, beneath the Council Oak, a large oak tree on the Hollywood Reservation. It was under this tree that, as a young woman, Betty Mae and Tribal elders met in the 1950s to hammer out the framework of what has become The organized government of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

“Before I take the photos, I talk to the women and do research about who they are to select the location where the photos will be taken,” said Busch. “The Council Oak was selected because it tells about Betty’s background.

Beneath this oak, Betty recalls translating Miccosukee, Creek and English for the elders as they met to organize their Tribe.

“My impression of Betty is that she is a very determined and strong woman that really worked hard for what she has accomplished,” said Busch, adding that Betty’s portrait captures the strength of her character.

Edith Osman, the current president of the Florida Bar Association and the second woman to hold the position, will be also joining this year’s photographic documentary. Those two are this year’s honorees.

Other influential women in the exhibit include Roxey Bolton, Gloria Estefan, Ruth Kasewitz, Arva Parks McCabe and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen are also included in the exhibit.

According to Busch, who started her photographic career in the early 1970s, the exhibit is a highly regarded Hall of Fame and impressive historic record of Florida’s living legends.

“The purpose of the series is to present the Florida community, specially women and girls, with positive role models that serve instill ideals as well as inspire those who are striving to achieve goals,” said Busch.

After the opening reception, the exhibit, which is open to the public, will be on display March 26 - April 1, at the Omni Colonnade Hotel located on 180 Aragon Avenue, Coral Gables. For more information, call (305) 661-6605.

Thousands Attend ‘Discover Native America’ Powwow

* Photos: Back Page, Video clips at www.seminoletribe.com/dna2000/index.shtml

ST. PETERSBURG — Perfect weather combined with top-shelf native entertainment helped fill the Eckerd College campus with more than 30,000 visitors for the Seminole Tribe of Florida’s Discover Native America 2000 Powwow and Festival March 3-4.

“This powwow may be the class native event in the South,” said Robert “Tree” Cody, the legendary flautist and Nammy award winner. “It’s a great showplace for American Indian culture.”

Cody and his wife Marlene joined American Indian entertainment icons Bill Miller, Ulali, Chief Jim Billie, actor Gary Farmer, comedian Drew Lacapa, Paul Buster and Cowbone and Paula Bowers to star in the event which combined a full competition powwow, a native-themed Children’s Village, arts and crafts marketplace, an American Indian film festival and a historic showing of the late

Seminole artist Noah Billie’s paintings.

This was the second straight year the DNA event has been hosted by Eckerd at its campus on the shores of Boca Ciega Bay. “Discover Native America provides an opportunity for community visitors to gather together in the shared enjoyment of sights, sounds and tastes not available every day and perhaps take home with them an appreciation of the importance of preserving native culture,” wrote Eckerd President Peter Armacost, in a letter to Seminole Tribal Chairman James Billie.

From the entrance of the Seminole Veteran’s Color Guard on Saturday afternoon, until the colors were retired on Sunday afternoon, the powwow was the centerpiece of the entire event. Directed by Commanche Otto Mahsetki, it was held in a grass arena framed by a giant truckload of hay bales graciously donated by Seminole Brighton/Tampa



SONG SINGER: Drum contest a DNA crowd favorite.

See DNA, page 20

Editorial

The Native Music Blues

***Tom Bee**

Contrary to rumors, Europeans did not bring music to these shores. We Native Americans already had our own repertoire of song and dance. Music has always and continues to be part of Native American culture.

The mainstream music industry has had a hard time taking Native American music seriously. If this is not a valid genre, why are so many non-Indian artists recording Native American sounding music, then disguising their heritage by labeling their music “Native Inspired” or “Native Influenced?” The artist leaves it to the consumer to form his or her own opinion of authenticity.

What bothers me is that many retailers and listening posts are carrying Native American-sounding music from these artists convinced that this is what Native American music is all about. Since it’s promoted as Native American music, consumers assume that they are purchasing true Native American music from true Native American artists.

Not.

I found have that over 50 percent of the music on listening posts, and in Native American retail sections across the country is actually non-Indian, but labeled as Native American music. I encourage consumers to carefully look over the packaging to ensure that they are purchasing the real thing, and not from the “wannabe tribe.” Native American jewelry is now required to be labeled as “Authentic Indian-Made.” Perhaps Native American music should be labeled as well.

I have been involved in the music industry as an artist, songwriter, producer, music publisher, record-label executive, artist manager, concert promoter, and public-relations person. This knowledge culminated in the birth of SOAR (Sound Of America Records) and has contributed to our continued success as a leading producer of both contemporary and traditional Native American music.

SOAR has played an instrumental part in garnering worldwide attention to this growing genre. SOAR was the first company to release traditional music on compact disc when others wanted to keep it a “cassette only market.” We were the first to digitally record powwow music. Our motto has always been “Quality of Titles, not Quantity of Titles.”

Recently, I persuaded Billboard magazine to run a yearly “Native American Spotlight” issue and convinced the American

Federation of Independent Music (AFIM) to create a North American Native category. I have been doing likewise with the Grammys (presented by the National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences, or NARAS), having submitted proposals, letters of support, approximate annual sales figures from various labels, etc. for the last ten years.

The process has been very political, not to mention ludicrous. After extensive correspondence and recent conversations with NARAS, I feel confident that we will succeed in our goal: the addition of two new Grammy Award categories to be effective in the year 2001. Those categories are “Best Traditional Recording by a Native American Artist,” and “Best Contemporary Recording by a Native American Artist.”

The NARAS Award is due to meet in May of 2000 when a decision will be made as to the fate of our prolonged efforts. If these categories are approved, I would suggest that a panel be established to ensure that all entries are legitimate.

The so-called industry professionals in this country have not taken Native Americans seriously when it comes to making quality; competitive recordings of any kind. It all goes back to a romanticized mentality, which only succeeds in keeping old stereotypes alive.

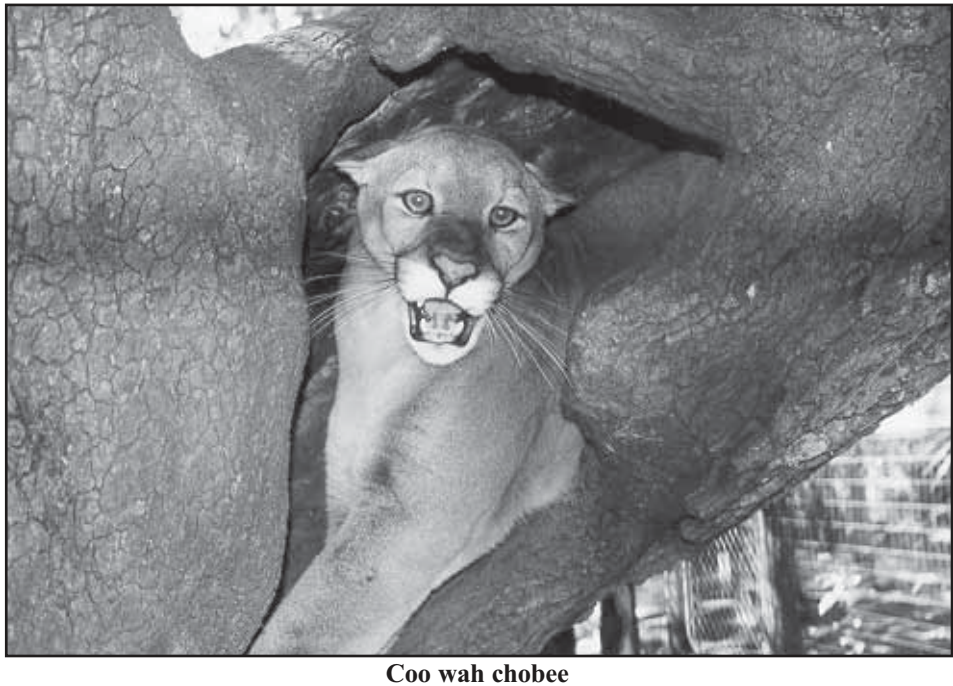
I applaud Ellen Bello, the founder of the Native American Music Awards (NAMA), for creating the Nammys to honor the music from the real people and to give the genre the respect it deserves. However, it’s pathetic that she had to do this.

Once only a small market focused on itself, Native American music has gone international with cutting-edge Native talent in all forms of music with examples like Indigenous, R. Carlos Nakai, Chief Jim Billie, Jim Boyd and Brule. With expansive marketing, and an ever-growing crop of new buyers, excited after hearing the music for the first time, Native American music is penetrating the world music market.

Billboard magazine, affectionately referred to as “the Bible of the music industry” recently called me an “Indigenous Music Champion.” Although, I appreciate the compliment, it’s really about justice, not about Tom Bee.

I cannot sit back and allow the music industry to misrepresent an artist’s heritage in order to sell records.

— *Tom Bee is the founder of Sound Of America Records*



Coo wah chobee

email

6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024

education and appreciation of our Native American brothers. Many of our Troop have strong Native American heritages. It has been a few years since our Troop has visited the Big Cypress Reservation. We are looking forward to what has been added.

David Hendrick Sr.
Orlando
Redbear227@aol.com

Chief Billie:

I am writing in reference to: **www.seminoletribe.com**. The page is well done and provides good information for use by teachers and students. I would like to include it as a reference in a teacher’s guide that I am creating. I have two questions related to this project: 1. May I have your permission to cite your page? 2. Will the page remain available for at least two years? Please let me know, at your earliest convenience, the answers to the above two questions. Thank you very much.

Melissa Matusevich
Social Studies Supervisor
Montgomery, Va.
melissa@bev.net

Education Director Vivian Crooks replies:

You may cite our page. The page will remain available for use by all teachers, students and others interested in the Seminole Tribe of Florida. Please review our Discover Native America lesson plans at www.seminoletribe.com/calendar/dna/studyguide.

Che hun ta mo:

In late January we took the Eco tour at Billie Swamp Safari via the swamp buggy through parts of the Everglades and I have to admit it has been one of the most unforgettable experiences I have ever had. Thanks to the wonderful peoples’ aura and a special *sho naa bish* to our tour guide Phil, I think of the Panther Clan.

I am looking forward to my next visit to the wide-open spaces of the Seminole lands. The atmosphere takes you back to a time when all men and wildlife existed in harmony. It was very touching to hear Phil speak from his heart about his people and the hardship they faced and still do until this day.

I absolutely love wildlife and was glad to see such a diverse collection of animals while on the Eco tour, but one thing that has caught my attention and concern is that some of the animals on Billie Swamp Safari were not native to the land and, according to my favorite animal show, non-native species that are introduced to other lands cause damage and makes it hard for the native species to survive.

Can you give me any insight on the native species of the Everglades and has there been any problems so far with the introduced species?

Praveen Samaroo
Trinidad, West Indies
ps_centaur75@mailcity.com

Most of the non-native animals at Billie Swamp Safari are highly endangered in their own native lands. A fence protects these animals from leaving the BSS area. A significant problem is loss of the non-Native species to predation by the wild Florida panther. For

more information on the Safari, call 800-949-6101.

Seminole Tribune:

My great great grandmother was Seminole from Alabama. Her husband received her for a mule, pick axe and a blanket — so the story goes. Her daughter’s name was Anna Leona Wood. I’m trying to find out what her name would be. I have no clue.

Leiahue Hovers
LeonH88.com

Seminole Tribune:

We are researching our family history in Maori land issues and we as a family find your history very similar to us as Maori people and would appreciate any information concerning this matter. *Kia ora* our indigenous *whanau*.

Ruahau Rangiri
Opunake, New Zealand

Seminole Tribune:

Best Chief Jim Billie is doing alright. Hope,

Tom Jones
YMAOH@aol.com

Chief Billie says it's not unusual. He's back in action and feeling fine.

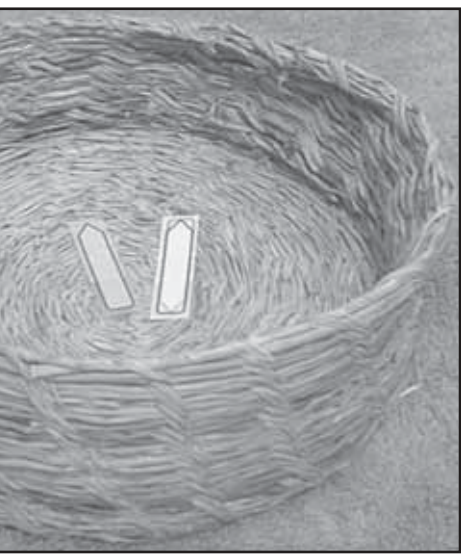
Chief Billie:

My name is Rebecca McKennett. I am an Alaskan Tlingit Indian Anthropologist. May I call on your help? I found this basket (photo below) in Georgia. I have never seen anything like before as far as the weaving. I know that this basket is not from Alaska or from the Northwest Coast. This basket is either made out straw or grass. It looks more like straw.

It has a single dyed grass woven around the basket. I do know that it is about 4-5 hundred years old. Its origin? I do not know. I am sorry that this is the best I can do, but hope the pictures will help some.

If you can help point me in the right direction, I would be so grateful. Does this look familiar? My expertise is not in basketry. Thank you.

Rebecca McKennett
Raven@groupz.net



Our Most Precious Commodity

***Virginia Mitchell**

I saw an interesting ad in the newspaper the other day which got me thinking. It was an ad for a new car which claimed that this automobile “goes from 0-40 as fast as you did.” It went on to say, “What happened? One minute you are studying for mid-terms, then you take a little nap only to wake up 20 years later with a job, a mate and a couple of kids.”

Reflecting on the past 20 years of my own life brought about a myriad of mixed emotions, as I pondered on where I am today, and where I was 20 years ago. Life was not good for me back then. I was at an awkward age, searching for true love and acceptance.

I made a lot of mistakes – some of which have left permanent scars. Why couldn’t I find “Mr. Right”? I was a hard-worker, I had acceptable looks, folks said I was a lot of fun – especially when I drank.

Still, I was restless, actually too young to be a mother, and my self-esteem was non-existent. I believed in God, yet had seen so much hypocrisy; and what had He done for me?

As time passed for me, I was afforded the opportunity to really do something with my life, although I had resigned myself to the fact that I would probably never be really happy. At least I had acquired the means to take care of myself and do the best I could for my kids. I had burnt a lot of bridges with them and had a lot of making up to do.

Whether it be luck, chance, karma or whatever, I finally did meet the right man, who has given me back my self-esteem and the ability to be the kind of person I always wanted to be. As I sit here counting my blessings, I can’t help but think about some of my people who are still out there using drugs and alcohol. There are yet even more who have passed on from those same things – the same people I used to party with. They never did quit – even up to the very end.

As I grapple with the brevity of life, I wonder if they know that their big chance is slipping away. Unfortunately, for too many, it is already too late. Some are living with a death sentence such as AIDS and Hepatitis C. They have not much time left, and they don’t know the measure of their remaining days.

Granted, none of us know how much time we have left on this earth, and even though our days are as handbreadths, there

must be some measure of regret for days gone by. I found myself mourning those who are still here as if they were already gone, because they can never reclaim the lost years, their youth nor their health – our most precious commodity; and I shudder to think that I could have been one of these people.

What about our kids? You can tell them how it was. But they think they are indestructible. They are different, and they won’t end up like that – they’ll quit first. I know a lot of parents share those feelings of helplessness as they watch their kids spiral out of control.

If only, I think to myself, there was some way to show them the loss of time and how sad to hear a loved one say, “If I only could get back all those years I lost, I would do this or that.” Or, “I wish I was young again and had the energy to just get up each day and even take a walk - but I can’t because I’m sick and I’m not ever going to get better.”

Think about it, all of you young people, and think about it now. You are so lucky to have your health, your youth and the resources we didn’t have years ago. A life is a terrible thing to waste – especially when everyone has so much to give and so much to live for. Please make that decision to live - and live life to the fullest! Our future depends on all of you making the right choices now.

One very important choice we all need to focus on is our Tribal blood quantity slowly dissolving to nothing. We should take to heart that some day soon to get this matter back on track. You never know when Council might consider only ½ blood or with clan name only for Tribal enrollment. Sure they and all of us have that option to make such changes. Think twice before having those children with non-Indian, non-Tribal and non-clan individuals.

Gradually working together we can have more Seminole blood flowing within the Tribe again. Stranger things have happened, so be aware that this may come to be. Be prepared. It is never too late to try and correct some wrongs.

Though many of us were taught that as time goes on, things will improve, grab it by the horn, steer it to the side. Sure it can be stalled when we all work as a whole and not against each other.

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

e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

Chief Billie:

I was born in Osceola, Iowa, and I’ve always been very proud of the name. Just lately there seems to be vibrations sending me in search of the man Osceola. Pictures of the Seminole remind me very much of the Native people of Ecuador and Peru. Thank you.

Cheryle Lozada
Reno, NV
cheryleb@nvvbell.net

Chief Billie:

I am trying to help a nine-year-old do a report on the history and customs of the Seminoles and all I can find on this @#\$^& web page is current event stuff. Don’t you want to share your past?

Jack Phinshaw
Asbury Park, N.J.

Mr. Phinshaw:

You don’t know Jack. Go to the Tribal website and click on history. It’s there. Good luck.

Peggy Osceola of the Tribe’s Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum also replies:

Yes, we have been sharing our history & culture to the public for many years now. I’m sorry you had trouble finding us on the Internet. Now, that you have, I need your mailing address so I may send you a free information packet with loads of information from history and culture to posters, maps and brochures of tribal enterprises. Thank you for your interest in the museum.

Dear Editor:

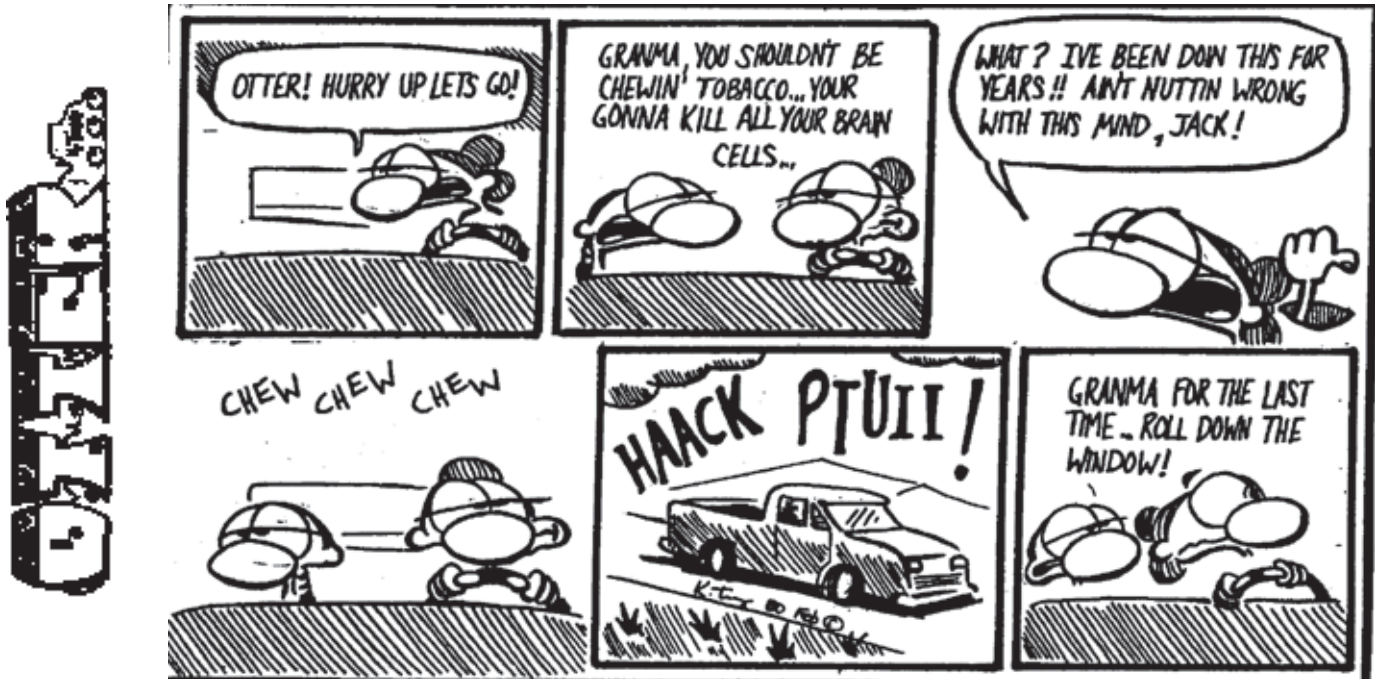
Does the Seminole nation sell swamp cabbage either in its raw form of cut trunks, or cooked in jars? I had read that it has been cultivated on the reservation? Regards,

Joe Balan
joe.balan@prodigy.net

The Seminole Tribe of Florida has no commercial swamp cabbage operation.

Chief Billie:

I search the web constantly for Indian related sites. I am proud to say that the Seminoles of Florida — my home state — have one of the best sites I’ve seen. I run a Boy Scout Troop in Orlando and we devote a lot of our program to the



Seminole Tribune

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The Seminole Tribune

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

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Don Robertson, Alex John and Ted Raulerson (l-r) inspect shell rock from Tribe's newest venture.

Tucker Ridge Shell Mine Opened

By T. Benn
BRIGHTON — The Seminole Tribe of Florida's latest venture is the Tucker Ridge Shell Mine.

Tribal member Alan Huff was instrumental of getting this project started and off the ground. It is designed to bring in more revenue and a steady cash flow, and the future of the mining project looks favorable and bright.

The first contract with US Sugar called for \$5.75 per cubic yard including trucking charges. Other interested shell material buyers have been the BIA for the maintenance on Indian Roads. Self-maintenance on private roads, South Florida Water Management District for their projects, and numerous area contractors.

The Tucker Ridge Shell Mine is in the process of becoming Florida Department of Transportation approved, which will offer more options for marketing the shell material.

The location of the Brighton mine allows easy access to Central Florida area road and highway contractors who will be able to reduce their transportation overhead.

With the reconstruction of state road 721 through the Brighton Reservation alone, contractors can save on hauling time for the road material needed to complete this large project right in our own neighborhood.

Don Robertson, Alex Johns and mine operations foremen Ted Raulerson have been keep-

ing a close eye on the project. Raulerson loads the trucks, writes the scale tickets and checks the material for quality control. Cissy Thomas handles the paper work at the Brighton Cattle and Land office, making sure that she and Raulerson balance out with trip tickets and total number of material yardage billed.

Various other materials will soon be available for sale at the mine too, including shell rock, shell rock base, rip-rap, clean fill, sand, sorted rock and washed shell.

Alex Johns says that when the shell rock pit is played out the Tucker Ridge Mine will be the new home of a 15 acre deep water recreational lake and park for the community's enjoyment.

Don Robertson added that another mining site is being searched for at Big Cypress Reservation that can also be DOT approved.



Seminole shell mine will provide building material to local contractors.

Manatees Harassed In Hernando County

The Hernando County Sheriff's Office, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, and Special Agents of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Law Enforcement Office have been investigating several reports of severe manatee harassment in Hernando County, Fla.

These incidents allegedly involve juvenile white males either straddling or riding the manatees in the area of Hernando Beach Park off Shoal Line Road. The reports indicate the juveniles use a rope, which is first passed under the animal then used like a bridle when they attempt to sit or stand on the animal's back.

The West Indian manatee, commonly referred to as the Florida manatee, is a protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (Title 16 USC Section 1538) and the Florida Manatee Sanctuary Act (370.12(2)(d) F.S.). Under this ESA it is unlawful for any person to "take" an endangered species. The term "take" includes harassment, which is defined as an intentional or negligent act, or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt its normal behavior patterns. These patterns include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

Along with other prohibitions, the Florida law stipulates that, except by terms of a valid state or federal permit, it is unlawful for any person at any time by any means, or in any manner intentionally or negligently to annoy, molest, harass, or disturb or attempt to annoy, molest, harass, or disturb any manatee.

Under federal law, violators face fines of up to \$100,000 and/or up to a year in a federal prison, or both, in criminal prosecutions, and under

civil penalties they face fines of up to \$25,000. Violations under the Florida statute are second degree misdemeanors carrying up to 60 days in a county jail and a fine of \$500.

Manatees are extremely sensitive to cold and they congregate in the springs at the beach park, Jenkins Creek and Rogers Park in Hernando County due to the warmer spring-fed waters of these areas. Harassment is likely to drive these animals from these havens into unsheltered areas of the gulf where they may die from exposure to colder temperatures. Extreme harassment, such as these incidents, can also cause physical injury or cause the animal to go into shock from the extreme stress these incidents cause. The ESA provisions stipulate a reward may be given to any person who furnishes information which leads to an arrest, criminal conviction, civil penalty, or forfeiture of property for any ESA violation.

Anyone with information concerning this harassment or these incidents, should avoid contact with the violators, and immediately call the Fernando County Sheriff's Office at 352-754-6830, your local Sheriff's office, or the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Marine Enforcement at 1-800-DIAL-FMP - 800-342-5367. It is important to report the information as quickly as possible to increase the possibility that violators will be on scene when authorities arrive.

For more information on the Florida manatee visit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's web site at: <http://endangered.fws.gov/ia0c.html>. You can also find out more about the Fish and Wildlife Service and Endangered Species at: <http://www.fws.gov>.

Heard Of Swamp Owl? Watch Out for Swamp Eel!

Associated Press
MIAMI — A voracious Asian eel found near Everglades National Park could become a biological nightmare if it slithers or swims into the park through inter-connected canals and wetlands, federal scientists said.

"If you want to be fatalistic, you'd have to say there's no way we can stop it," said Bill Loftus, a biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey's Florida Caribbean Science Center in Miami.

The Asian swamp eel has razor sharp teeth, reaches lengths of three feet or more and hunts at night. Scientists said the eels eat massive quantities of just about anything, including worms, shrimp, crayfish, other fish and frogs.

"They have the potential to disrupt food webs, eat native species and compete with native fish and wading birds for food," said John Curnutt, another USGS biologist.

The swamp eel surfaced in south Miami-Dade County last month when the Army Corps of

Engineers began pumping water from a canal as part of a plan to dry out breeding grounds of an endangered songbird, the Cape Sable seaside sparrow.

The swamp eel, whose scientific name is *Monopterus albus*, is native to subtropical and temperate climates in Eastern Asia, where its main predators are crocodiles and fishermen. It threatens the Everglades because it can adapt to various conditions, Loftus said. They can live in ponds, in canals, in marshes and in roadside ditches. They don't mind occasional cold snaps and can also survive out of water. The creatures also can burrow deep into the mud to avoid attempts to kill them with poison or explosives.

Loftus believes the eels might have been released into canals by someone who wanted to establish a population as a food source.

"We think there's a very good chance that somebody tried to stock the canals," Loftus said. "And because the eels are still pretty sparse in South Dade, this is probably a fairly recent introduction."

Okeechobee Site Candidate For TV Series

OKEECHOBEE — The Okeechobee Battle Site, where Army Infantry and Missouri Volunteers attacked Seminole men, women and children, is the subject of a possible documentary to be aired on the History Channel after Producer Michael Rogers visited the site March 10, to gather information for the program.

Roger's company, Jupiter Entertainment Production, works in conjunction with the National Trust for Historical Preservation. Recently the company was given a confidential list noting the names of sites with the most historical significance, and that are also the most threatened.

The Battle of Okeechobee site made the list. It is currently being threatened by a possible 300-home housing development. Only eleven sites will be highlighted. Should the Battle of Okeechobee site be chosen, the program would be aired on the History Channel, the date, however, is not known at this time.

The program is part of a series of shows that the History channel features called "Save Our History, America's Most Endangered 2000."

"What I believe is that research is conducted on the sites of historical significance and most endangered are the sites that will be selected," said Deborah Dawkins, Coordinating Producer for Jupiter Entertainment.

"I do want to emphasize, however, that our company has no control over the sites chosen. There have been misunderstandings in the past to the nature of the selection process."

Tribal Representative Brian Zepeda was on hand to lend his perspective. When asked why the Battlesite should be preserved, Zepeda replied, "If we save the battlesite, we are not only preserving a part of Seminole history, but United States and Florida history as well. It's combined like a chain-link fence."

In 1997 the site was placed on the list of priority threatened National Landmarks. City officials, who once endorsed the residential development, now say they realize the historical significance of the site. Officials expect no final decision until the Fall of 2000.

Endangered Gourds Found

LAKE OKEECHOBEE — Healthy, indeed thriving populations of the critically endangered Okeechobee gourd (*Cucurbita okeechobeensis*) have been found in southern Lake Okeechobee by South Florida Water Management's District and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers staff. The gourd has not been reported recently anywhere else in the world.

It is the only federally endangered plant found on Lake Okeechobee. The inedible gourd apparently never was widely used by native aboriginal people of Florida. And it's too small to be very useful as a storage vessel. That may be why there is no evidence that it was carried to new sites, cultivated, or even used as a toy or baby rattle. But despite this unpopularity, the hardy plant retained a strong foothold until the pace of 20th century development decreased available habitat.

The vines of this plant, a member of the cucumber/pumpkin family, grow across the ground until they encounter a tree, a post, or anything else to climb. Then the plant takes off, climbing high into cat-

tails, Brazilian pepper, and especially pond apple trees (*Annona glabra*). The pond apple is a native aquatic tree that historically forested much of the southern shallows of Lake Okeechobee, but today is found in greatly reduced stands.

The baseball-sized gourd seems to do better when it climbs above the ground, probably since there is less competition for light and space in tree canopies than on the surface of the ground. It does very well in pond apple trees, where the gourds hang under the leafy canopy until they ripen and fall into the water. Then, they may float to shore. After a year or two on moist soil, the gourds decompose, break open, and release dozens of seeds.

Seeds often sprout in January, taking off in a mad race to take advantage of open shoreline that often is swept clean by the wave action of winter storms. Getting a jump on spring is one of the gourd's most effective strategies to compete against the many other plants vying for space on the lake's shores.

Cannons Stolen From St. Augustine Wreck

ST. AUGUSTINE — Looters hit one of St. Augustine's most significant underwater archaeological sites, snatching two 18th-century cannons, blasting a large hole in the middle of an ongoing excavation, and violating a state marine reserve.

The damage to the wreck of the British sloop *Industry* was discovered by Billy Ray Morris, principal investigator on an underwater archaeological survey commissioned by St. Augustine's Lighthouse Museum. Morris and his crew had spent extensive time on the wreck in the summer of 1998 and were just beginning a new season when his first dive revealed that something was wrong. A deep cavity had been blown in the sand with prop-wash deflectors, and two cannons found the year before were missing.

"We (had) discovered eight cannons being brought as cargo, probably to be placed in the blockhouse at Matanzas according to historical references," Morris says. But when we got out this July we saw that somebody had blasted this big hole and gone

down and grabbed two of the cannons."

The Florida Marine Patrol and Department of Environmental Protection were quickly notified, but with no witnesses and no one even sure exactly when the guns were taken the chances of a successful prosecution seem low.

The *Industry* was the first supply ship sent after the British took possession of St. Augustine, and was heavily loaded when she ran aground on May 5, 1764. Morris believes that much of her cargo remains intact buried by the sand.

Despite the loss of the cannons and the damage to the wreck, Morris remains upbeat on the prospects for studying the *Industry* and the 54 other offshore sites near St. Augustine that he had detected using remote sensing. Supported by the Lighthouse Museum, which is in the process of creating a maritime archaeology research center, he plans to return to the *Industry* for about four weeks this summer.

Darlene T. Quinn

#1

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Fort Jupiter: Military Post Brought First Settlement To Palm Beach County

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

By Vida Volkert
JUPITER — It was Jan. 24, 1838. About 1,600 soldiers, many barefooted with flesh badly lacerated by saw palmetto, were cutting a trail through dense hammocks along the borders of the Loxahatchee River.

The soldiers were frequently wading in water nearly up to their waists as they searched for a band of Seminoles, reportedly led by the Indian Chief Arpeika, known to the white men as Sam Jones. It was Arpeika who had recently inflicted a stunning defeat of U.S. forces in the Battle of Okeechobee on Dec. 25, 1837.

“The Army knew the Seminoles were escaping from the northern tip of Lake Okeechobee to the coasts of the Atlantic Ocean,” said historian Charles Milhauser of the Florida History Center and Museum. “The Navy and the Army were assigned to find those Seminoles and capture them before they scattered.”

For this purpose, Gen. Thomas Sydney Jesup, who commanded the Army of Florida from Dec. 8, 1836 to May 1838, mobilized 100 Alabama volunteers, 600 dragoons, 400 artillery and 500 Tennessee volunteers, bringing them into the Jupiter area.

As Jesup’s troops got near the intersection of the Loxahatchee River and the present Indiantown Road – located in today’s Jupiter community, word was brought that the band of Seminoles, which consisted of about 300 warriors, was strongly posted in a dense hammock four miles ahead. It was about noon when Jesup gave orders to move forward with all speed and attack.

Indian war-whoops were followed by rifle shots, initiating the Battle of Loxahatchee. This battle would later become the cause for the establishment of Fort Jupiter, the first U.S. settlement in today’s Palm Beach County.

According to Jacob Rhett Motte, an Army surgeon who served in Florida between 1836 and 1838 and who recorded a series of Seminole War historical events, including the Battle of Loxahatchee, the army confronted various obstacles when fighting the Seminoles at Loxahatchee.

In gaining the center of the hammock, where the Seminoles were posted, the soldiers found a rapid and deep stream. The stream was flowing between them and the hammock and the Seminoles “were delivering a deadly fire from behind trees on the opposite bank.”

“The stream was about thirty yards in width; not daunted by this obstacle, our men hesitated not a moment, but plunged into the swift torrent, and crossed in the face of a shower of balls which whistled about their ears,” wrote Motte. However, the stream was deeper than the soldiers anticipated and the only way to reach the opposite side was by swimming, which they did to the Seminoles warriors’ astonishment.

Once on the other side, some of the Tennessee Volunteers held back at a respectable distance. Enraged by the volunteers’ hesitation, Jesup dismounted from his horse and with pistol in hand, ordered the volunteers to follow him. Jesup immediately rushed into the hammock, but the Volunteers remained in their position. At that very moment, Jesup was struck by a bullet which shattered his glasses and laid open his cheek.

The Battle of Loxahatchee ended after Jesup’s men gained control of the opposite side of the stream. The Seminoles, being greatly outnumbered, scattered up and down the hammock.

Milhauser says that after the Battle of Loxahatchee, Jesup’s men looked for a place near the battle site to rest and take care of the wounded. That place would later become known as Fort Jupiter.

“After the Loxahatchee battle, the troops were exhausted. They looked for a place in the area to build the fort and took the whole Jupiter area as a military reservation,” says Milhauser.

According to Motte, the Army’s losses at the Battle of Loxahatchee included seven killed, and 30 wounded. The Indian loss is still unknown, but after the battle the soldiers found only one Indian lying dead on the battlefield. The warrior had been shot through the head.

As Jesup’s troops looked for a spot to establish a camp, Jesup ordered the construction of a bridge to cross over the Loxahatchee River. Once the bridge was done, the troops marched for the north branch of Jupiter creek and encamped there after dark.

On the afternoon of Jan. 26, 1838, they relocated to Jupiter Bay, located three miles lower down the creek and nearer to Jupiter Inlet, today’s residential area known as Pennock Point.

Once they got to the designated spot, the Tennessee battalion and the army regulars commenced erecting a stockade, intending to establish this place as a resting base and a depot for supplies.

“On the 28th the stockade was completed, and designated as Fort Jupiter,” wrote Surgeon Motte on his diary on Jan. 28, 1838.

Charles Milhauser says Fort Jupiter got its name in a round-about way that began when the Spanish first visited the area in the mid 1500s.

“When the Spanish arrived they encountered the Jeaga Indians,” Milhauser says. “One tribe of the Jeaga’s was called Hove, which the Spanish placed on their maps. When the English took over Florida, they used the old Spanish maps and translated many of the place names into English.

“The English considered Hove to be the romantic or poetic name for the God of the sky. The Roman God of the skies was Jupiter, which the English placed on their maps for that area. So, when the U.S. Army came, the area was already known as Jupiter. So, ironically, the fort was actually named after an Indian Tribe.”

Milhauser also adds settlers later named the next town Juno, after Jupiter’s wife. He says even today dozens of streets in Jupiter are named after Roman and Greek gods and goddesses.

According to Richard Procyk, an archaeologist who worked the Loxahatchee River archeological

site for five years, Gen. Jesup and Lt. Levi Powell, commander of Jesup’s south east column, selected Fort Jupiter’s site for the protection it afforded his troops on three sides.

“Fort Jupiter was located on what is now Pennock Point, a strip of land that juts out into the Loxahatchee River facing Jupiter Inlet three miles east,” said Procyk.

“This site allowed Jesup’s men easy access to Jupiter Inlet and a convenient location for supplies,” said Procyk, adding that supplies were later brought by boat to the fort through the Inlet.

“Tents soon covered the area as the artillery regiment camped west of the stockade while the dragoons protected the encampment on the southeast point, facing east and the southwest fork near Jones Creek,” said Procyk, the author of the recently published book, *Guns Across the Loxahatchee*.

Surgeon Motte wrote the troops were delayed in this post several days, before their preparations were completed for again taking field.

“The principal cause of delay was the destitute condition of the troops; being without shoes, and almost without clothes, which were torn to pieces by scrambling through the saw-palmetto; and until a fresh supply could be received they were disabled from proceeding, from the nature of the country.”

On Jan. 29, 1838, Motte recorded that Major Ashby with a 150 Dragoons were ordered out of Fort Jupiter, with two days’ rations, to scout in the area and find traces of the Indian warriors who had fought in the Battle of Loxahatchee.

“They returned on the afternoon of the 30th, bringing thirty ponies — some with their saddles on — and twenty head of cattle, having trailed the Indians into an extensive prairie of saw-grass six feet high, towards the south-west.”

A day later, the Indians were reported to have fled to an “impregnable” cypress swamp 28 miles south of Fort Jupiter. Motte also reported the Indians were lying concealed, “resting after their flight; and probably awaiting an opportunity to try their hand with us again.”

But to the Army’s surprise, these Indians later proved to have no intention of fighting. They in fact wanted to negotiate peace with the U.S. government.

On Feb. 5, 1838, the supplies, including shoes and clothes, arrived at Fort Jupiter. The soldiers were then ordered to take the field again and pursue

the Seminoles who had been previously reported resting south of Fort Jupiter.

Motte recorded the soldiers proceed through miles of mud and water, and “most gigantic saw-palmetto.”

On the morning of the Feb. 7, 1838, the Army column approached within a few miles of the cypress swamp where the Seminoles were waiting. Gen. Jesup sent a messenger to offer peace to the Indians, and invited the chiefs to a conference.

Upon the return of the messenger, every one prepared for another bloody conflict. The messenger, however, returned with great news to the exhausted and worn out soldiers. Several Indians began advancing from the cypress swamp with a white flag.

Hallec-Hadjo and Tuskegee were the leaders of the Indians who had decided to stop fighting. Arpeika, the most feared and respected of all the leaders had retreated with his band to islands in Lake Okeechobee.

The young Chief Hallec-Hadjo met Jesup at the military camp on the morning of Feb. 7, 1838. Of this encounter, Motte wrote:

“He [Hallec-Hadjo] began by alluding to the wretched condition of his people and stated how anxious they were for peace; but begged that they should not be sent out of the country. They were willing, he said, to do anything, rather than fight any more; they had lost all their cattle and ponies, and their wives and children were dying from the hardships of being chased about so much...”

As per Jesup’s request, Chief Tuskegee soon joined the peace talks. Jesup agreed to recommend this band of Seminoles to Washington, with permission to stay in South Florida.

“In the meantime, it was agreed, that while awaiting for the President’s decision they [the Seminoles] should bring in their families, and encamp near us at Ft. Jupiter, within ten days,” wrote Motte.

On Feb. 12, 1838, the day after the troops had returned to Fort Jupiter, Lt. Thomas Beasley Linnard, Jesup’s aide-de-camp, was dispatched express to Washington.

Linnard, a graduate of the Military Academy in 1830, was taking Jesup’s proposal to permit the Indians to retain part of Florida. While awaiting the decision, about 400 Indians encamped near Fort Jupiter.

Motte wrote extensively about the Indians who camped near Fort Jupiter.

“In conformity with the agreement, the Indians very soon after our return to Fort Jupiter, followed; and encamped within a mile of us. There were about four hundred of them and a great many Negroes, awaiting the will of their great father, the President.”

About the women he recorded that from their appearance, “I should judge the burden of the war to have principally fallen upon the female portion of the natives; for while men looked in good health, spirits, and conditions, the squaws with but few exceptions presented a most squalid appearance; being destitute of even the necessary clothing to

cover their nakedness.”

Motte noticed that many of these women had nothing around them but the old corn bags the soldiers had thrown away, and which the women had picked up in camp, and along their trail.

Some of these women would gather around Motte’s tent and exchange words with him.

“They declared that if their great father said they must go, only they would but that they only petitioned to have a slip of the vast country that once owned them masters.” That the women would be contented with the everglades, “so that they might live and die in their native wilds.”

During this time, February-March 1838, Fort Jupiter became the nucleus of all campaigning against the Seminoles in South Florida

Historian Kenneth J. Hughes, who in 1992 published *A Chronological History of Fort Jupiter and Military Operations in the Loxahatchee Region*, said the military post on Jupiter River attained maximum importance.

“All orders pertaining to southeast Florida field operations and all regulations concerning the maintenance of supply shipments from the north were founded at the commanders’ headquarters,” said Hughes, adding that Fort Jupiter was the headquarters during these months of 1838.

Throughout these days, life in and around Fort Jupiter went by among council meetings with the Indians, powwows, and a peculiar visit, as such was the visit of Samuel Colt, the inventor of the repeating rifle.

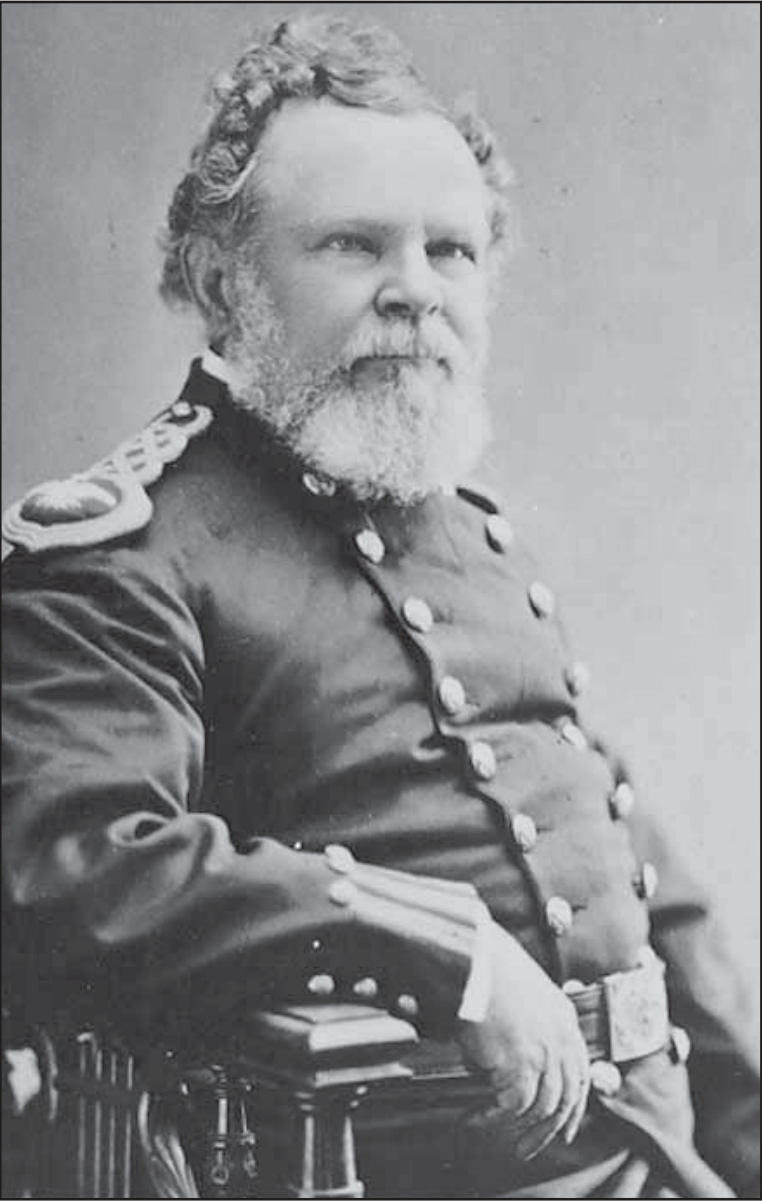
Sometime in March of 1838, Colt went to Fort Jupiter to submit his invention. According to Motte, the government immediately directed the purchase of 50 of those riffles, which were put into the hands of the Dragoons. The Dragoons would later be sent after Arpeika.

About the powwows, Motte reported that on Feb. 24, 1838, he attended one that was held with Tuskegee, Hallec-Hadjo and other chiefs at the tent of Gen. Jesup, in the artillery camp.

“About 10’clock in the morning, the two principal chiefs Tuskegee and Hallec-Hadjo entered the camp at the head of a procession of Indian warriors, dressed in all the paraphernalia of Indian finery. They were preceded by two warriors dancing a peace dance, and cutting the most fantastic capers...the warriors then shook hands or rather elbows with the officers.

“...the council was opened by an ancient squaw, the eldest in the tribe. She said pointing to the warriors, ‘they were all her children; that she was tired of the war; that her warriors were slain; her villages burnt; her little ones perishing by the road side; that the great spirit frowned on his red children; that the star of her nation had set in blood. She desired that the hatchet should be buried forever, between her children, and her white brethren.’”

But despite Jesup’s attempts to persuade the government to resist removing the Seminoles from Florida, on March 20, 1838, Lt. Linnard returned from Washington with bad news. The President had rejected the proposal to allow this band of Seminoles to remain in their “native wilds.”



Capt. Joseph Roberts commanded Fort Jupiter from March to July of 1857. During his watch, his soliders patrolled the area in search of Seminoles, but by then, most had left the region.

Fearing a negative reaction, Jesup did not communicate the news to the Indians. Instead, he hid the truth from the Seminoles and ordered their capture. The soldiers took the Indian camp by surprise and most of the Indians, including Tuskegee and Hallec-Hadjo were detained and later sent off in boats for emigration to the west.

About the deceiving way in which Jesup handled this situation, Charles Milhauser said Jesup acted out of pressure from Washington and the people of Florida. It has been said that the commander of Florida was a tyrant, but Milhauser believes Jesup was sympathetic to the Seminoles, otherwise he



Capt. Joseph Haskin commanded the Fort Juipter “Depot of Exploration,” and made the recommendation that the area around the fort be reserved for military purposes.

would have not taken the time to plead the Seminoles’ case.

“He wanted to end the war and wanted the Seminoles to live in Florida, but Washington did not agree with that,” said Milhauser. Indeed, even if the government would have considered Jesup’s proposal, the people of Florida put enough pressure against the plan to have it denied.

On Feb. 15, 1838, speaking for all Floridians, the *Florida Herald* published the following statement:

“We do not like the proposition about [Seminoles] remaining in a small portion of the territory. The breach is too wide between the Indians and the Floridian, ever to be healed. The people of Florida will not submit to it, and it has cost too much blood and treasure for government to give up the war in this style.”

The removal of Tuskegee and Hallec-Hadjo marked the end of the Army’s operations in the Jupiter area during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Although members of this Seminole band had escaped from being removed, they did not represent enough threat to keep Fort Jupiter active.

On March 30, 1838, Col. William Harney with 50 Dragoons armed with Colt’s riffles departed Fort Jupiter to look for Arpeika. Before Harney, Major William Lauderdale with the Tennessee volunteers had been sent out of Jupiter.

“Lauderdale was sent out from Fort Jupiter to the New River area,” said Richard Procyk. “On their way south, Lauderdale’s men cut the road to the New River, creating what is still known today as Military Trail.”

Soon after Harney’s and Lauderdale’s departure, Fort Jupiter was abandoned. Procyk says the Seminoles burned down the Fort in April of 1838.

“Years later, when a third war against the Seminoles began in 1855, a new Fort Jupiter was erected near where the old Fort Jupiter had been located,” said Procyk. “The U.S. Army returned to the Loxahatchee crossroads and established a new fort in Jupiter on Feb. 21, 1855.”

According to Procyk, the new site was a half-mile east of old Fort Jupiter and closer to the Jupiter Lighthouse. Erection of the Jupiter Lighthouse began in 1854, when President Franklin Pierce signed an order that appropriated about \$35,000 for its construction. The idea of the lighthouse raised as a result of innumerable shipwrecks in the Jupiter Inlet area.

Kenneth Hughes said the Second Fort Jupiter had no stockade and looked like a camp rather than a fort.

“They [the Army] built a two-room cabin with a kitchen that was established as a depot,” said Hughes, adding that the Army occupied the second Fort Jupiter twice for brief periods. Once in 1855 and the second time in 1856.

The soldiers there were assigned to protect the lighthouse from the Indians. But Charles Milhauser, who also volunteers at the Jupiter lighthouse, said nobody wanted to serve at this post.

“The conditions in the Jupiter area were too harsh,” said Milhauser, adding that because the mouth of the Jupiter Inlet closed at times, a pond was formed and mosquitoes and other plagues invaded the area, bringing diseases.

“The men would always complain and nobody would want to come to this area,” said Milhauser. As a result, in 1856, 120 soldiers were brought from Tampa to dig out the Inlet and open the mouth.

“But a storm came and closed the mouth again,” said Milhauser. The second Fort Jupiter was finally abandoned in May 1858, after the Third Seminole War was declared over. The fort deteriorated and fell apart, says Milhauser.

After the fort decayed, a couple of pieces of land in the Jupiter Military Reservation started being sold to the public in 1880, says Milhauser. “But the majority of settlers only started coming in 1894 because prior to that date, nobody was allowed to settle in the Jupiter military reservation.”

Kenneth Hughes says the Fort Jupiter Military Reservation’s most important contribution to the community was that it was the “first attempt of Americanization in the area.

“Fort Jupiter is the first American occupation in Palm Beach County,” said Hughes. Palm Beach County became Florida’s 47th county on April 30, 1909. The Jupiter community became a municipality and was charted into Palm Beach County by the end of the 1920s. Jupiter was incorporated in 1925.

West Palm Beach, the county seat of Palm Beach County, is today the nation’s most renowned and fashionable winter resort. Palm Beach County is home to about one million people and about 35,000 of them live in Jupiter.

For more information about tours to the site of the Loxahatchee Battle, the Indian camp, and the Fort Jupiter sites, contact the Florida History Center and Museum, located on 805 N. U.S. Highway 1, Jupiter, FL 33477, at (561) 747 6639.

Next: Fort Myers.

Community News



Volunteer Judy Sulser (l) gives advice to students Cody Bert and Jonathan Harjo.

Field Trip Gives Students A Close Look At Estuary

HOLLYWOOD —You can take the kids out of the country, but never the country out of the kids. Eileen Hager’s 7th and 8th graders from the Big Cypress Ahfachkee School proved the old saying well on a field trip to the Anne Kolb Nature Center, March 8.

Straddling the Intracoastal Waterway near the east end of Sheridan Street is a prime piece of real estate dedicated to teaching all ages about the mangrove estuary. The staff of naturalists and volunteers pointed out the contrast between the students’ Big Cypress Reservation home — a freshwater ecosystem — and this brackish water which is a prime nursery for fish and bird species.

An estuary is formed when a river meets the sea. There, freshwater meets salt and tidal flushing causes mixing which brings nutrients into the water column. Changing water levels allow a flurry of different feeding behaviors for fish and plant-life.

Ahfachkee students took turns mining the muck with a miniature dredge, and seining the water for more shiny evidence of life — baby fish.

The pretzel-like prop roots of the red mangroves lent mystery to a habitat that shaded crabs and one still (sleeping or dead?) green heron.

The students dove right in for the mud-grab, looking for critters in the mucky forest floor. The girls, Victoria Hernandez and Sheena Reid, used the opportunity for a facial. Later, down on



Victoria Hernandez with beauty pack.

the sandy bank of the river, they along with Jonathan Harjo and Cody Bert donned hippy waders to seine for fish. Wet and muddy all, it was only the teacher, Eileen, who got water down her waders.

Johnny U Plays Brighton



MOVING STAGE: Johnny U sings from horseback.

By T. Benn

BRIGHTON — Crowds at the Brighton Field Days got a chance to be entertained by Johnny U, one of the favorite performers the past four years.

Johnny, who comes from Idaho, combines country crooning with horseback riding, singing his songs from the back of a horse with a wireless microphone.

A cattle and sheep rancher like his father before him, Johnny keeps alive a family tradition of running his family’s livestock interest.

“We raise some of the best blood stock quarter horses from our part of the country,” he says.

But, while in Florida he performs off the back of Naha, an 8-year-old American Quarter Horse mare on loan from his Seminole trail partner, Amos Tiger.

Council

Continued from page 1

in me, they wouldn’t be here,” said Williams.

“I wasn’t even given a chance,” said Williams.

“Ninety days? I’ll give you 90 years!” said Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola.

Williams, who has worked in the Pre-school program for ten years, was assured by Chairman James Billie that the matter “will be taken care of in-house.”

The Council also:

*Approved a \$2.5 million/year buyout of the Coconut Creek smoke shop from the Board of Directors. The Council, who will own and staff the shop, will receive the profits while the Board, who will supply the cigarettes, will receive the yearly sum and wholesale revenue.

*Approved a 25-year lease for the Brighton Camparina property to the Board of Directors for business enterprises. The present lease with Russ and Sunni Adams will expire in May 2000.

*Approved a financial services agreement with Game Financial Corporation for check cashing and ATM services at the Coconut Creek casino.

*Approved a construction services agreement with Lodge Construction Inc., for the Brighton Pre-school facility.

Also visiting the Council were 50 students from the Ahfachkee Day School. Director of School Operations Dr. Sharon Byrd-Gaffney stated that the kindergarten students were progressing rapidly and will finish their first grade reading books by the end of the year.

Alligator Show Entertained Guests At Brighton Event

By T. Benn

BRIGHTON — This year at the Brighton Field Days, a special alligator and snake show was included in the main arena.

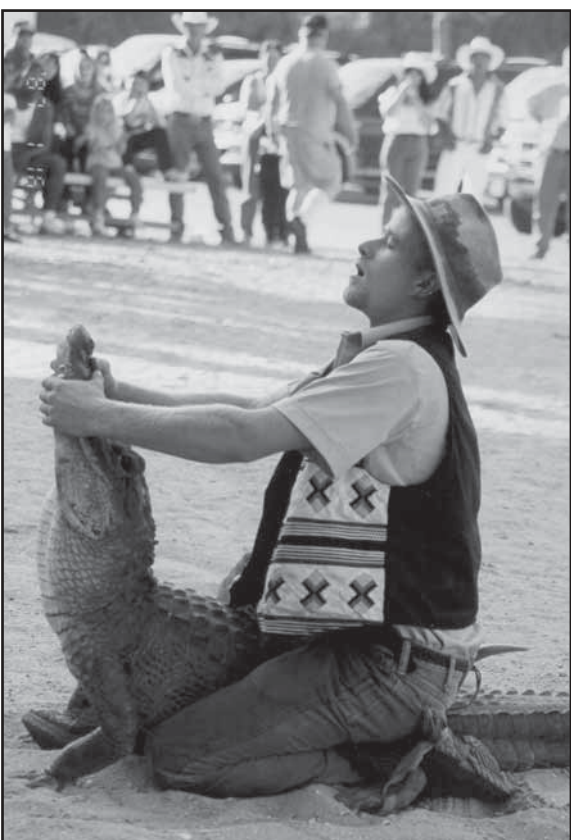
Michael Bailey, a young man who makes his living catching and transporting nuisance alligators from residential areas back to the wild if possible, provided the demonstration.

With lightning quick reflexes, Bailey studied the alligator cautiously. He checked the alligator’s reactions by touching it in the leg and then the back of its snout with a four-foot stick as he circled the alligator.

Bailey sized the animal up, and then with lightning quick speed Bailey is on top of his prey. The alligator, now caught, is ready to be transported.

Bailey also showed the crowd the various poisonous

snakes and how to identify them from the cotton mouth moccasin and the different rattlesnakes and the treacherous coral snake.



Michael Bailey helped educated Brighton visitors.



Bailey shows ‘gator teeth at festival.



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Photos of Young Tribal members
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AIM Constellation Fund	-1.78	-1.78	39.48	22.17	25.04
Dreyfus Founders Balanced Acct.	-3.25	-3.25	-4.30	6.99	13.80
Dreyfus Founders Growth Acct.	-3.60	-3.60	25.33	26.11	29.38
Fidelity Advisor Growth Opport	-6.57	-6.57	-3.90	13.81	19.18
Invesco Dynamics Fund	-1.78	-1.78	59.52	36.12	32.74
CHTR Balanced Fund 1 – Invesco	-4.06	-4.06	-5.51	9.32	13.89
Janus Worldwide Fund	-1.28	-1.28	52.93	33.06	31.21
Cigna Lifetime 20	-3.18	-3.18	18.55	16.13	18.52
Cigna Lifetime 30	-2.87	-2.87	14.74	15.03	17.47
Cigna Lifetime 40	-2.72	-2.72	13.87	14.64	16.83
Cigna Lifetime 50	-2.49	-2.49	9.36	12.70	15.13
Cigna Lifetime 60	-1.63	-1.63	3.92	10.11	11.71
Neuberger & Berman Guardian	-4.81	-4.81	-2.80	5.30	14.16

Results for period longer than one year are annualized.
*L – Fund returns prior to July 1, 1993 represent proforma composite results.
NOTE: Individual results are influenced by the size and timing of contributions and withdrawals during the period; therefore, results in an individual participant's account may differ from those shown above.

	Market-Valued Accounts				
PBHG Growth Fund	-0.02	-0.02	88.35	23.25	26.57
CHTR Large Co Stk Index-Cigna	-5.03	-5.03	10.08	22.55	26.20
American Century Ultra	-6.31	-6.31	23.79	26.36	28.83
Templeton Foreign Fund	-7.40	-7.40	31.10	8.87	11.78
Templeton Growth Fund	-6.86	-6.86	22.38	10.37	14.92
Warburg – Pincus emerging growth	-3.28	-3.28	34.44	18.78	22.94
Warburg Pincus Adv Value Acct	-8.01	-8.01	-3.76	10.60	10.61
Warburg-Pincus International	-6.71	-6.71	44.67	13.05	13.83



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Mitchell Cypress, Mondo Tiger Lead Swamp Cabbage Parade



Horses, flags and cowboys and cowgirls add up to a festive entry in the parade.



These ‘pioneer women’ were one of the hits during the Swamp Cabbage Parade.



Young and old alike found plenty to keep their attention at the annual event.

LABELLE — During the weekend of Feb. 26 - 27, Seminole Tribe President Mitchell Cypress and Big Cypress Representative Mondo Tiger, both proudly sporting the trademark Seminole patchwork jackets, rode in the parade opening the 34th annual Swamp Cabbage Festival.

The Swamp Cabbage Festival, appropriately named in honor of Florida’s state tree, the Sable Palm (also known as the cabbage palm), is held annually on the last full weekend in February. The first festival, which was held in 1967, was so well received and was such a huge success, that it became a yearly event.

Festivities include the selection of a Swamp Cabbage Queen, first and second graders hold their own little parade, a 5k race and the main event – The Swamp Cabbage Festival Parade.

Beginning promptly at 10 a.m., parade entries began their trek along Bridge Street to Barron Park. Home-grown floats of every size and shape, all decorated with palm fronds stretched for miles. Horse drawn carriages, representatives from various law enforcement agencies as well as the massive swamp buggies impressed the crowd, but there was no single entity able to compete



Tribal President Mitchell Cypress waves to the crowd as he helps liven up the parade.

with the showing of the Araba Shriners, who comprised at least 30 percent of the parade. Motorcycle officers performed figure eight demonstrations, exhibiting their agility and skill on their big Harleys, roaring within inches of spectators at times.

Over at Barron Park, activities had already begun. Among the maze of vendors, one could shop for a variety of jewelry, artwork, crafts, clothing and

food from many cultures in and around the area. Seminole and Miccosukee vendors were kept busy throughout the weekend selling pumpkin and frybread, Indian burgers, chicken, ribs, porkchops and countless other entrées. Colorful patchwork jackets, vests, skirts, handbags and even potholders – sure to catch your eye attracted shoppers from all over the country, who came to visit for the festival.



Poster tells the story of this annual event.



These people learned nothing is better with swamp cabbage than Swamp Seasoning.

miccosukee

SPORTS

Tough Play Marks Fourth Shootout

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — “It’s about something positive. Keeping the kids off the street and giving them something to do,” said Richard Osceola about the 4th Annual March Madness Shootout, held at the Hollywood Gymnasium on Mar. 9-11.

Ten men’s teams and six women’s teams showed up for the tournament and by late Saturday night only three teams remained in each division. The late hour and the pressure-packed semi-final games resulted in two final matches in which one team was able to build an insurmountable lead over the other.

Brighton matched up against the Mis-Chiefs in the women’s semis. The key match up in the game was between the guards, Chantel Miller for Brighton and Reynaldi Becenti for the Mis-Chiefs.

The crowd enjoyed the defensive play and offensive moves of the two guards. “It’s a lot of fun. You know a lot of ladies like to fight and argue, but not here,” said Miller. “I like this.”

The Mis-Chiefs beat Brighton 52-46 and went on to defeat the Lions in the finals 42-12.

The men’s semis was a re-match between coach Berry Butler’s Seminole Wholesale and Show ‘Nuff. A close game throughout, Show ‘Nuff was in the lead until Wholesale tied it at 45-45 with 1:20 left to play.

A point dispute arose with 45 seconds left and gave Wholesale a three-point lead instead of a one-point advantage. Unable to drop a three pointer to tie, Show ‘Nuff were still wondering what happened while Wholesale celebrated.

Seminole Wholesale faced the Challengers in the finals. The Challengers got off to a quick start and kept a double-digit lead throughout, winning 52-39.

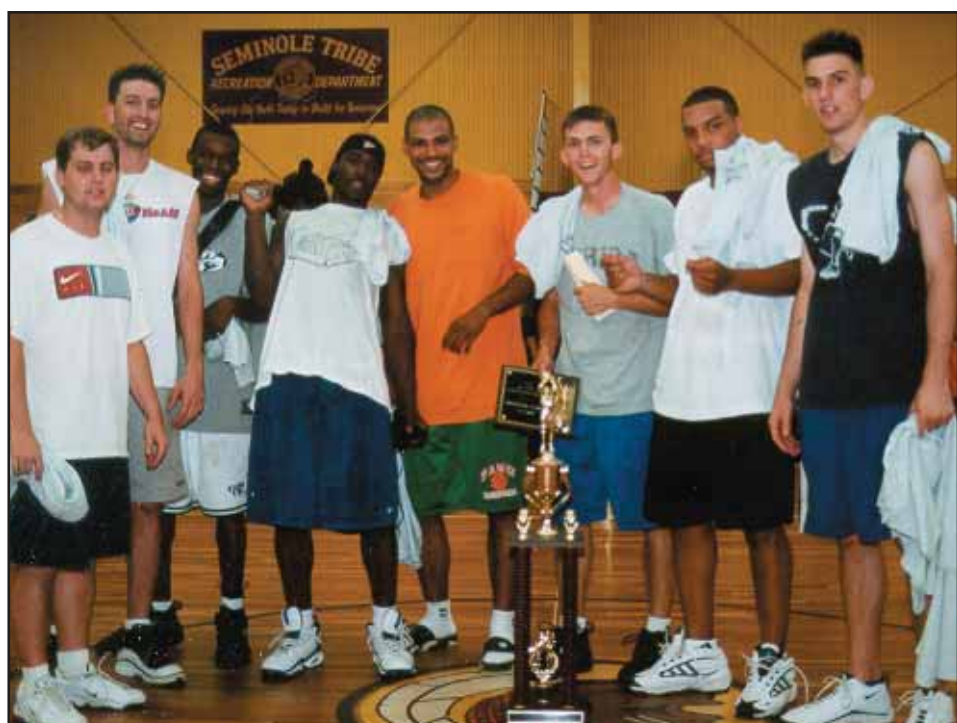
Tournament MVP’s were Reynaldi Becenti for the women and Tony Randolph in the men’s division.

Organizer Richard Osceola was pleased with the turnout.

“It’s our fourth annual and a lot of the teams have matured and the tournament continues to grow,” Osceola said. “We’re planning to hold more and we hope to have more Indian teams come out and play.”



Action was fast and furious at the Fourths March Shootout.



The Challengers won the men’s division with a stunning 53-39 victory in the finals.

Immokalee Pool League Results

By Libby Blake
IMMOKALEE — “Seminoles” team took first place in the Immokalee Pool League, which concluded Feb. 28. Team members included captain Tony Billie, Council Rep. David Cypress, Big Cypress Recreation Director George Grasshopper, Joe Billie Jr., and Randy Clay, who subbed for the injured Tony Manuel. Olea also subbed as needed. The team won \$1,200.

Second place honors went to “Motown Boyz” captained by Ralph Sanchez. Team members included Mario Posada, O.B. Osceola, and Immokalee Recreational Director Roy Garza. Pedro Garza and Pete Aguilar subbed as needed for the team. Second paid \$1,000.

Charlie Cypress headed the third place team “The Saints” who took home \$800. Other team members included Mike Onco, Ricky Doctor, Leroy King, and sub Tony Bert.

Team “Motown Bandits” took fourth place. Virginia Billie captained the team of Raymond Garza, Angel, and Tommy Benson. The team shared \$700.

Fifth place belonged to “Play’Az” captained by league president Maria Billie. Members were Roy Cantu, Juan Salinas, and youth league president Raymond Mora. Prize money was \$600.

Immokalee Board Rep. Delores Jumper was “team manager” and occasional player for the sixth place “Andy’s Friends.” Captained by Robert Garza, the team included Adam Garza, Mike Garza, Ricky Alvarado, and Pedro Jacobo. Delores took the \$500 prize money and promised to share it with the team.

Seventh place and \$400 went to “Da’Rookies.” The team captain was Mike Alvarado and members were David Billie, Dennis Gonzales, and Marciano Calderon.

“Do You Smell What’s Cook’in” ended the league in eighth place. Connie Williams led the team of Lonnie Billie, Johnny Boone, and Victor Billie. This team struggled throughout the season having to resort to the use of several subs for a complete roster each week. This team split \$300. The subs were Spade, Lloyd, Carlos, and Pedro — “no last names please.”

Bringing up the rear was last place “Dale’s,” Dale Grasshopper, Liaison to Council Rep. David Cypress, captained the only all female team. Team members were Linda Billie, Esther Buster, and league treasurer Libby Blake. Suzanne Davis subbed for the team. Ninth place paid \$200.

Payout night was held March 6 at the recreation center.



Esmerelda Billie, Ray Yzaguirre, and Nina Frias.

Delores Jumper, Virginia Garcia, and Jean Martinez provided a free barbecue dinner.

“I want to thank everyone for participating in the league. I think it went very well for our first try at this. We’ll probably take a couple weeks off and then start another league if everybody wants to,” stated George Grasshopper before handing out the prize monies. Grasshopper also thanked league president Maria Billie for “keeping everybody together and doing all the paperwork,” league treasurer Libby Blake for “handling all the money,” and Raymond Mora for “keeping the kids league running smoothly.”

Following the awards presentation, an 8-ball tournament was held for the men and women who played in the league. The men played double elimination, race to three matches. The women played double elimination, race to two matches.

Winners and prizes were as follows: **Men** – 1st: George Grasshopper (\$500), 2nd: David Billie (\$400), 3rd: David Cypress (\$300), 4th: Roy Garza (\$200), 5th: Ralph Sanchez (\$100). **Women** – 1st: Virginia Billie (\$400), 2nd: Maria Billie (\$300), 3rd: Linda Billie (\$200), 4th: Connie Williams (\$100).



Andrew Green (l) of the Miami Dolphins watches as Angel Dominguez of the Seminole Recreation team hits. The exhibition softball game, Feb. 4, ended with Recreation posting a 13-10 victory, leaving Recreation thinking it can beat the squad from Seminole Communications.

March Basketball Tourney Results

- Men’s**
1st Place — Miccosukee
2nd Place — Brighton Recreation
- Women’s**
1st Place — Lady Seminole
2nd Place — Brighton

Bowling Tournament Reminder

Reminder to all participants in any of the events to be held May 25-29, 2000. All room reservations at Fort Lauderdale Airport Hilton must be made by May 1, 2000 to guarantee discount rate and room availability.

Kids Learn Golf From Pro

By Libby Blake
BIG CYPRESS — Big Cypress Recreation has contracted the services of professional golfer Shirlee Aylor to teach golf to children interested in learning the game.

Aylor, who qualified for the Ladies Professional Golfers Association (LPGA) tour in 1973, is currently the teaching professional at TBF Norris Golf Range in Cooper City, Fla.

Lessons are held every Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. behind the Gym. Any child 5 years and older can participate.

“If you teach kids the right way from the beginning they are more likely to enjoy the game and stick with it,” stated Aylor. “And it’s much easier to teach them from the beginning before they learn bad habits.”

Aylor said she is pleased with the response from the kids. The classes have been running between four to 16 children



Golf pro Shirlee Aylor shows young tigers the woods.

per lesson. Several parents have also taken advantage of having a golf pro available and participate along with the kids in improving their game.

Lessons will continue until Aylor moves to the Hollywood Reservation and Gym for the summer youth golf program. Aylor has taught the program at Hollywood for four years and plans to continue “as long as the kids want me to.”

EIRA Profile: Laquita Jumper

By Michael James
BIG CYPRESS — It’s been a year now since Laquita Jumper became secretary of one of the fastest growing and most prestigious Indian rodeo groups in the nation — Region 13, the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association.

Back then she was new at the job of association secretary. “Ask me in a year and we’ll talk about it then,” she said.

Twelve months and dozens of events have come and gone since she first said ‘I do’ to the nomination. Now, halfway through her two-year commitment she says she has truly enjoyed the experience, has grown to love the job and thinks that rodeo people are some of the best in the world.

You might think that keeping the 130 member EIRA organized would be an overwhelming undertaking. For some folks it might be — especially as rodeo day approaches. Laquita, however, takes the job in stride.

To understand how she does this so calmly you have to turn the clock back just a few years with the understanding that life in a family with four cowboys under one roof is like having your own personal rodeo every day.

“I grew up in Oklahoma and Kansas and was never around rodeo, rodeo animals, or even sports in general,” she says. Then one day, as fate would have it, she met future husband Moses ‘Big Grad’ Jumper after his sister’s college graduation. Today she looks back with affection at that chance meeting that has thus far resulted in 25 years of successful marriage, successful parenting, and continued personal growth.

“My first date with Big was a

rodeo,” she smiled adding that she wasn’t overly impressed with the sport. After the rodeo however things began to snowball for her with near continuous attendance of many different sporting events.

“I went to rodeos, softball games — just about every sport. He introduced me to a different world, which I knew nothing about. I haven’t regretted a minute of it,” she says.

After two years of dating the couple married and it was time for Laquita to bid farewell to the familiarity of Oklahoma and Kansas. South Florida was quite a departure from what she had been accustomed to.

“The first year was depressing,” she said. They lived in Hollywood at the time as they worked for four years building their house themselves at Big Cypress. Laquita recalls the mosquitoes as being the single worst element about Big Cypress. She also said that from the outset she made it perfectly clear that she would not move to Big Cypress until all of the comforts of home were up and running as expected in their new dwelling place. The prophecy wasn’t to be however.

“We moved to our house and there was no air conditioning, no heat, and no phone,” she says. It just so happened that it was during a year of weather extremes. The hottest summer and the coldest winter she can recall.

The comforts came quickly for the family and they set about the task of raising their three boys, Naha, Josh and Happy. All their sons began their rodeo careers at about the age of 7. With an avid cowboy for a father the boys quickly developed their skills and in no time they were trucking off to parts unknown to participate in rodeo events.



Laquita Jumper, EIRA secretary.

“Having four cowboys in the house was interesting,” said Laquita. “It kept them out of trouble, but then there was also football, baseball, and basketball,” she said reflecting on some of the best years they had as a family.

“Big coached and I was at all of the games,” she says, adding her most cherished memories are of when Josh and Naha graduated and when Happy, who is still in high school, became the state champion team roper in the Florida Junior Rodeo Association.

Laquita worked outside the home for 18 years. She recently left her formal job for the opportunity to spend more time with Happy and his pursuits as his high school athletic career is coming to an end. She also devotes a tremendous amount of time to her job as EIRA secretary. Church, says Laquita, is also a very important part of family life.

EIRA Immokalee Results

IMMOKALEE — If you missed the rodeo in Immokalee on March 4, you missed another exciting one! Here are the results:

Men’s Calf Roping — Howard Edmundson, 12.4 seconds, ten points; Naha Jumper, 17.4 seconds, 9 points; Josh Jumper, 23.4 seconds, 8 points. **Bare Back Riding** — Alex Johns, 49, 10 points. **Steer Wrestling** — Howard Edmundson, 5.2 seconds, 10 points; Brandon Wright, 5.7 seconds, 9 points; Sidney Gore, 7.7 seconds, 8 points; Josh Jumper, 8.2 seconds, 7 points.

Saddle Bronc Riding — Jay Louis, 53, 10 points; Robert Youngblood, 51, 9 points. **Team Roping** — Howard Edmundson and Brandon Wright, 6.2 seconds, 10 points; Marty Johns and Shawn John, 7.9 seconds, 9 points; Cicero Osceola and Jay Louis, 9.8 seconds, 8 points; Marvin Bowers and Naha Jumper, 14.1 seconds, 7 points.

Women’s Barrel Racing — Tess Ducheneaux, 17.31, 10 points; Holly Johns, 17.49 seconds, 9 points; Jo Leigh Johns, 17.51 seconds, 8 points; Emma Johns, 17.85, 7 points. **Women’s Break Away Roping** — No qualified times. **Bull Riding** — No qualified times. **Mutton Busting** — Jamie Gonzales, 6.81



Clinton Holt wasn’t able to complete 8 second ride.

seconds; Jonathan Robbins, 4.91; Tyler Tigertail, 3.93 seconds; Joseph John, 1.7 seconds. **Calf Riding** — Nick Jumper, 39; Dayne Johns, 37; Jasper Thomas, 33; Nathan Gopher, 13.

Beginners Barrel Racing — April Billie, 19.5 seconds; Nauthee Henry, 20 seconds; Morningstar Webster, 21.7 seconds; Sheyanna Osceola, 22.1 seconds.

Junior Bulls — Clinton Holt, 63; Wilson Bowers, 62; Stephen Billie, 57.

50 and Over Break Away Roping — Moses Jumper, 5.7 seconds; Tom Koenes, 13.5 seconds.

Novice Barrel Racing — Ayze Henry, 18.1 seconds; Mackenzie Johns, 18.8 seconds.

All Around Cowboy — Howard Edmundson, 30 points.

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17 Finish Dale Carnegie Course

By E. Bowers
HOLLYWOOD — On Mar. 13, the first class of Dale Carnegie graduates received their diplomas. The unique ceremony required the 17 graduates to describe how they used the lessons learned in the 12-week program.

“You started a journey,” said instructor Shay Gomez, “and you weren’t quite sure what the journey was about. Now, you will tell what it was about.”

The students started with a warm-up, pairing off and rehearsing their speeches on each other. Afterwards, each student recounted to the audience difficult situations in their professional or personal lives and how they employed Dale Carnegie techniques to find a solution or common ground.

The speeches surprised some of those in the audience. “To see some of them say more than one line,” said Sandy Sellner of the President’s Office, “I am so grateful to see this happen to these people.”

Special recognition was given to Oneva Baxley, who won the Breakthrough Award, Mary Jane Willie for Outstanding Performance, and Terry Sweat for Highest Award for Achievement.

The Dale Carnegie class is offered to all Tribal members and employees. Highly recommended by Chairman James Billie, who also is a graduate, the program focuses on communication skills, self-confidence, human relations, stress control, and leadership skills.

“They not only learn how to communicate,” said Maureen Vass, Public & Governmental



Vivian Crooks (l) presents certificate to June Degnan

Relations Coordinator, “but to deal with everyday problems.

“They learn that the golden opportunity you are seeking is within yourself.”

The recent graduates are Sonia McKenzie, Diane Frank, June Degnan, Anthony Frank, Oneva Baxley, Lisa Allen, Terry Sweat, Helene Buster, Mary Jane Willie, Irma Platt, Jake Melendez, Else Willie, Alexandra Frank, Norma Williams, George Wilson Jr., Joletta John and Shirley MacLennan.



Diana Sgroi with Maureen Frank after ceremony.



Jean Fontana (l), Sonia McKenzie with award.

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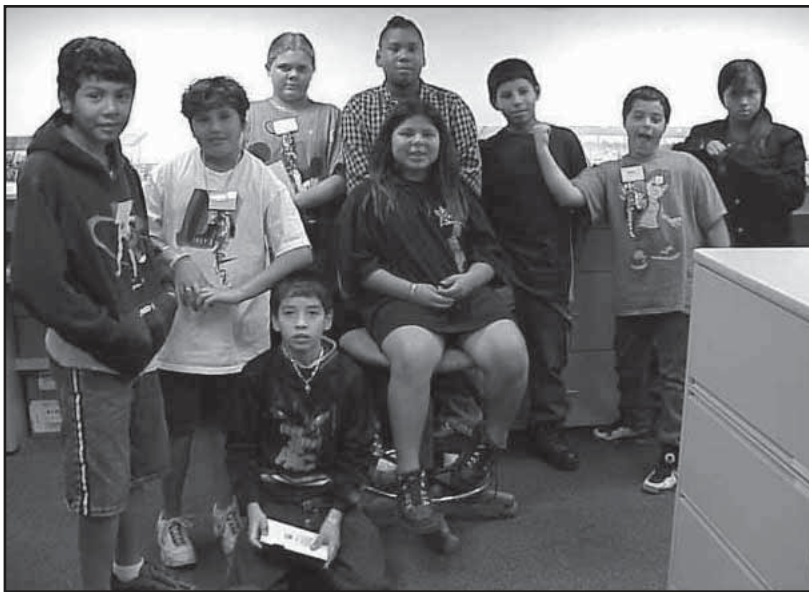
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Ms. Whiteside's class.



Ms. Hager's class.



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Jodi Simone
Jonny Billie
April Billie
Katherine Billie

Alisa Oliver
Marissa Osceola
Summit
Heather Billie

HOLLYWOOD — Fifty Ahfachkee students grades 3 through 8 came for the annual field trip to the Tribal Headquarters in Hollywood March 9th. The purpose of this trip was to learn about the different departments that make up the Seminole Tribe Inc.

The students first attended a council meeting to learn about the Tribal government. After that, the group split up into classes and headed off to each department for a brief summary of what they do.

In the Communications Department graphic designers Vanessa Frank and Melissa Sherman demonstrated photo editing techniques by putting a teacher's face on all of the students in that photo, which was a big hit with the kids.

For lunch the students were treated to McDonalds. Some kids said McDonalds -- A treat for the Big Cypress Students -- was the most exciting part of the field trip.



Ms. Tiger's class.



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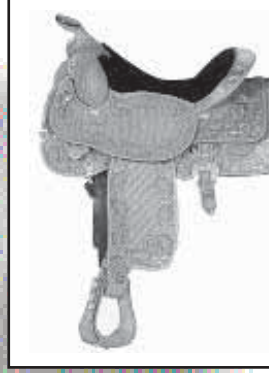




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80 Animals Shown In Livestock Show

By T. Benn
BRIGHTON — Seminole 4-H club members showed and sold 14 steers and 66 swine at the 14th Annual Livestock and Show Feb. 26, at the Brighton Seminole Reservation.

Friday, weigh in day, Stanlo Johns and Kasey Johns manned the swine scale while Billie Tiger and Teresa Bowers checked in the steers. You could see the sadness in the scale masters when an animal didn't make weight and had to be turned back and culled from the show.

Steers had to weigh 900 pounds and this year for the first time had to come from a Seminole Tribal cattle producer — either an individual or the Seminole Tribe of Florida Board cattle projects. Swine had to tip the scale at 180 pounds to make show weight to be judged.

The new swine barn wasn't quite ready for occupancy, but with the help of several volunteers it soon got that way. With the expert help of John Tommie and Skip Beardson the watering system started to flow. Welding the swine cages together was another crew lead by Archie Johns, Frank Thomas, Maxie Tommie, Louis Gopher, and Marvin Bowers.



Adrian Baker and Showmanship award.

The show ring set up by Billie Tiger, Teresa and Marvin Bowers. Mr. Jimbo Hawks of Okeechobee Feed donated the panels for the show and sale ring. Debbie Johns decorated the buyer's picture area with help from her daughters Boogie and Scooter.

When the show began Leoma Simmons and Cissy Thomas, took their place as show secretaries and Sabrina Tuttle became the show announcer. Norman Johns and Benny Hernandez worked the gates and kept the animals moving.

The judges were two very capable men — Henry Kemper of Osceola



These hogs were used to help the 4-H participants learn about proper handling.

County was asked to judge the steers while Kenneth Arnold judged the swine.

Scotty "Cotton" Baxley had the coals right for cooking fires with steaks and ribs as the bill of fare while Debbie Johns attended to her task of preparing a Four-Star culinary delight for the annual buyers. Again to Ms. Johns and her crew a much deserved "Thank You."

With their bellies full the buyers made their way from the dinner tent to the sale ring. Ms. Polly Hayes was getting everything ready to start the sale. Auctioneer Brian Trimble of Okeechobee checked out the PA system.

The ring men ready to take the bids were Stanlo Johns, Don Robertson and Larry Davis. Leoma, Cissy, and Sabrina were back to perform their duties. Kevin Osceola gave the Invocation. Trimble called the first animal into the ring, started his chant, the sale was on.

Steer #17, a black steer that weighed 1,220 pounds won the Grand Champion Title as well as heavyweight steer. The steer was owned by Alyssa Willie of Brighton. The Reserve Champion was steer # 18 owned and shown by Erin Willie. Her red steer weighed 1,190 pounds. This is the third year in a row that Willie girls have had either the Grand Champion or Reserve Champion Steer or both.

All three of the Steer classes were won by black steers from the Texas black bulls being introduced to the Seminole Cattle Programs over the past few years.

Light Weight steer #111 was owned and shown by Brighton's Howard

Jimmie. The Medium Weight class went to Holly "Scooter" Johns, #12. Holly resides on the Brighton Reservation.

The swine judging ended with Katrina Bettelyoun's hog being named Grand Champion. It weighed 250 pounds. Katrina is from the Big Cypress Reservation.

Reserve Champion honors went to Sierra Simmons. Her animal weighed 285 pounds and was hog # 123. Sierra is from Tampa.



Stanlo Johns ran the scales for 4H sale.

Clinton Holt Riding High

HOLLYWOOD — If it's true what they say about first impressions, then Clinton Holt is going places.

A real gentleman, he exhibits all the charisma and sportsmanship he will ever need to become a success in the rodeo world. Shy at first, Clinton felt right at home talking on the subjects of bull riding and bareback riding.

He stated that even though the saddle bronc competition is not available to the FJRA members at this time, he would still like to try his hand at it someday. In the meantime, he is building up his points in the other categories.

Recently, Clinton traveled to Plant City with other members of the Hollywood Horse Club, of which he has been a member for a year and a half, to compete in a two-day competition. The night before, Clinton was in Brighton for

the rodeo held there, where he placed second in the bullriding event.

Although he did not do as well in Plant City, he kept up his enthusiasm and vowed to do better next time. He already has five silver buckles for previous wins, and knows that there are many more to come.

Clinton is the son of Barbara Billie of Hollywood, and the late Dennis Holt. He attends Hallandale Adult Community Center, and gets the grades that keep him riding in competition.

Clinton has the support of his mom and step-dad David. They travel to most of his competitions and are his biggest fans.

Clinton has done well in the short time he has been involved as a member of the FJRA. He is on the road to a promising future in all of his endeavors.

Wilson Bowers: Young Cowboy Takes No Bull

BIG CYPRESS — Wilson Bowers, of the Big Cypress Reservation, is a young cowboy who has big plans for his future.

At 14, he has already started to make a name for himself in the world of rodeo. Wilson has chosen the category of bullriding — only — and is doing a fine job.

Wilson has been riding for nearly five years, and has won several buckles and his share of prize money. He comes from a family of rodeo cowboys and has had a lot of exposure to the sport. Wilson is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bowers, and is the youngest of their brood.

Wilson's parents are very supportive of his rodeo activities and travel to

the various events as often as possible to cheer him on. Wilson is a member of the FJRA, and participates in as many competitions as possible to build up points towards the finals in Okeechobee this April.

He states he would really like to check out the National PRCA finals in Albuquerque this year if he can, and feels he could learn a lot by watching some of the pros ride for the really big money.

Wilson attends Ahfachkee School in Big Cypress and is in the eighth grade. He does well in school, although he would rather be out riding a bull. He knows, however, that he is required to maintain his grades in order to participate in the FJRA, so he does his best.

4-H Show Clinic Held

By T. Benn
BIG CYPRESS — Every year when the 4-H Show and Sale is nearing, Seminole 4-H Director Polly Hayes looks for volunteers to help with the exhibitors in showmanship and grooming.

With the annual sale just around the corner, Brad Guidry gave a clinic on both showmanship and grooming for the Big Cypress 4-H Club members Feb. 17. Guidry, who has over 20 years of 4-H and Future Farmer's of America show experience, explained the techniques of setting an animal up to present to the judge. How to control the animal, and different ways to attract attention to the animal's best characteristics. He showed the young

exhibitors techniques so they don't interfere with other animals while they are being judged.

During the clinic, steers were unloaded from the stock trailers, haltered, then lead around the arena. The show was on and at times it was difficult to see just who was leading whom. Happy Jumper, Benny Hernandez, and Wilson Bowers took turns leading the steers. Eventually, the boys won out.

A special thanks from the parents and 4-H members to Mr. Guidry for his time and efforts in helping our Seminole 4-H Club members get ready for their 14th Annual Seminole Show and Sale.

Seminole Indian Youth Livestock Show And Sale



Erin Willie and Grand Champion Steer 1190 lbs.



Katrine Bettelyoun, Grand Champion Swine 250lbs.



Alyssa Willie Grand Reserve Steer 1220lbs.



Sierra Simmons and Grand Reserve Swine 260lbs.



Holly Johns and First Place Steer 1160lbs.



Serena Johns and First Place Swine 285lbs.



Howard Jimmie and First Place Steer 990lbs.



Lysandra Osceola and First Place Swine 265lbs.



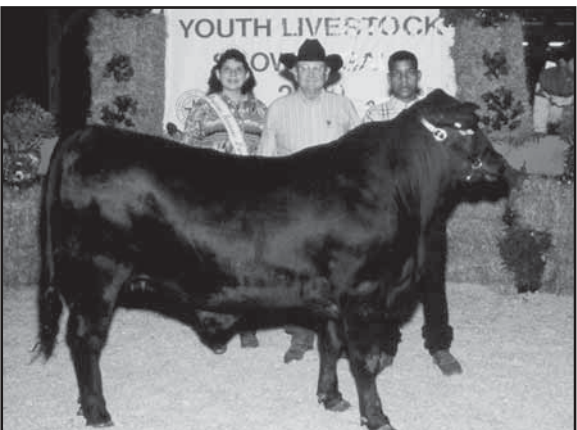
Curtis Motlow and Second Place Steer 1085lbs.



Nelson Osceola and First Place Swine 260lbs.



Clarissa Randolph and Second Place Steer 985lbs.



Adrian Baker and Third Place Steer 1215lbs.



Rachel Billie and First Place Swine 230lbs.



Justin Aldridge and Third Place Steer 1110lbs.



Shadow Billie and First Place Swine 225lbs.



Clint Hutchenson and Third Place Steer 975lbs.



Karen Cypress and First Place Swine 210lbs.



Lizina Bowers and Fourth Place Steer 1180lbs.



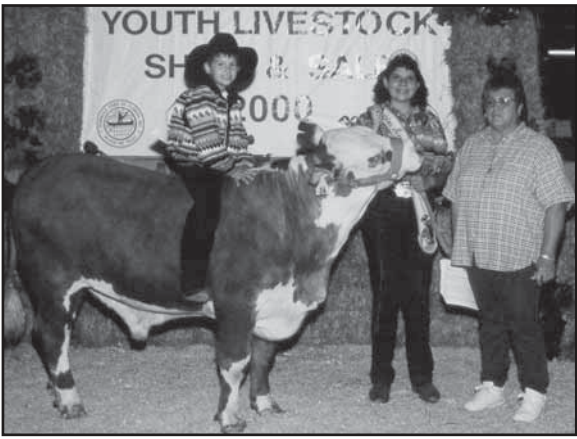
April Billie and Second Place Swine 285lbs.



Samantha Jimmie and Fourth Place Steer 1120lbs.



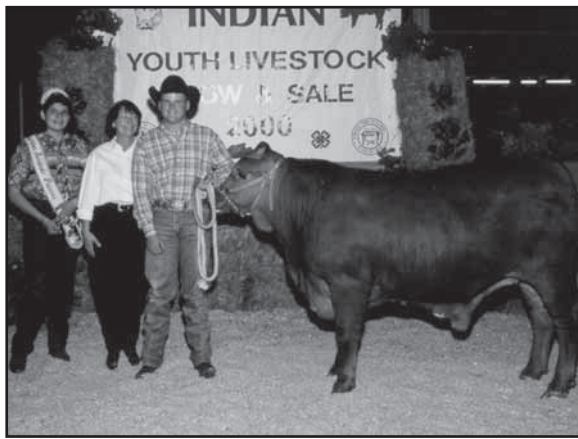
Andrew Bowers and Second Place Swine 270lbs.



Seth Randolph and Fourth Place Steer 960lbs.



Joseph Richardson and Second Place Swine 260lbs.



Jeffrey Hinebaugh and Fifth Place Steer 1055lbs.



Nathan Billie and Second Place Swine 260lbs.



Wilson Bowers and Fifth Place Steer 925lbs.



Zachery Billie and Second Place Swine 250lbs.



Phylan Osceola and Second Place Swine 245lbs.



Frank Marrero and Second Place Swine 230lbs.



Jamie Henry and Second Place Swine 220lbs.



Kimberly Alvarado and Second Place Swine 210lbs.



Jack Turtle and Third Place Swine 285lbs.



Joseph Santiago and Third Place Swine 270lbs.



Klarissa Osceola and Third Place Swine 260lbs.



Keyah Osceola and Third Place Swine 260lbs.



Bonnie Billie and Third Place Swine 250lbs.



Krystal Young and Third Place Swine 240lbs.



Kayla Bowers and Third Place Swine 230lbs.



Sawena Otero and Third Place Swine 215lbs.



Joshua Garza and Third Place Swine 185lbs.



Clayton Simmons and Fourth Place Swine 320lbs.



Brandon Young and Fourth Place Swine 265lbs.



Jodi Simone and Fourth Place Swine 260lbs.



Maverick Osceola and Fourth Place Swine 260lbs.



Jessica Turtle and Fourth Place Swine 255lbs.



Alex Cypress and Fourth Place Swine 240lbs.



Dylan Osceola and Fourth Place Swine 230lbs.



Katherine Billie and Fourth Place Swine 220lbs.



Shaun Billie and Fourth Place Swine 185lbs.



Kerwin Miller and Fifth Place Swine 300lbs.



Heather Billie and Fifth Place Swine 275lbs.



Joshua Smith and Fifth Place Swine 260lbs.



Alison Garza and Fifth Place Swine 260lbs.



Donald Johns and Fifth Place Swine 255lbs.



Mark Arriage and Fifth Place Swine 235lbs.



Paige Osceola and Fifth Place Swine 230lbs.



Lauren Bowers and Fifth Place Swine 225lbs.



Ryan Osceola and Fifth Place Swine 200lbs.



Jackson Richardson and Sixth Place Swine 285lbs.



Josie Davis and Sixth Place Swine 265lbs.



Kiefer Burt and Sixth Place Swine 260lbs.



Stephen Billie and Sixth Place Swine 250lbs.



Micco Billie and Sixth Place Swine 245lbs.



Christy Motlow and Sixth Place Swine 230lbs.



Megan Jones and Sixth Place Swine 225lbs.



Karen Cypress and Sixth Place Swine 190lbs.



Sonny Billie and Seventh Place Swine 340lbs.



Bonnie Davis and Seventh Place Swine 275lbs.



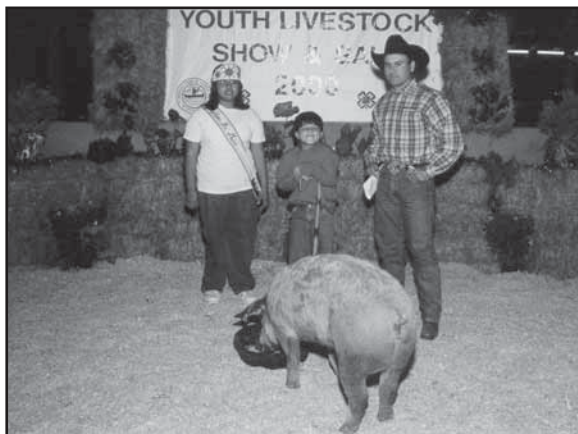
Homer Villareal and Seventh Place Swine 250lbs.



Nick Jumper and Seventh Place Swine 235lbs.



Miguel Mata and Seventh Place Swine 215lbs.



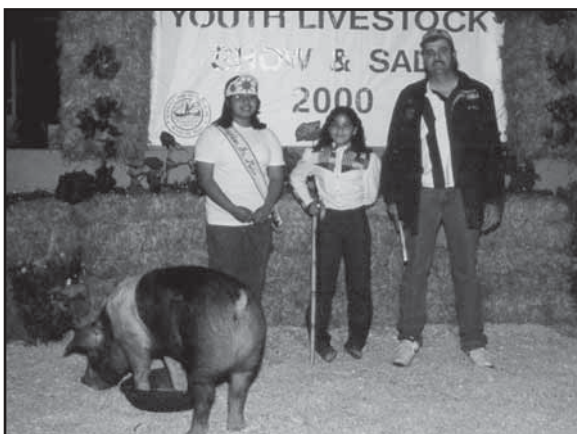
Devin Doctor and Seventh Place Swine 210lbs.



Mary Huff and Eighth Place Swine 350lbs.



Crystal Garza and Eighth Place Swine 255lbs.



Janet Mata and Eighth Place Swine 245lbs.



Patrick Osceola and Eighth Place Swine 200lbs.



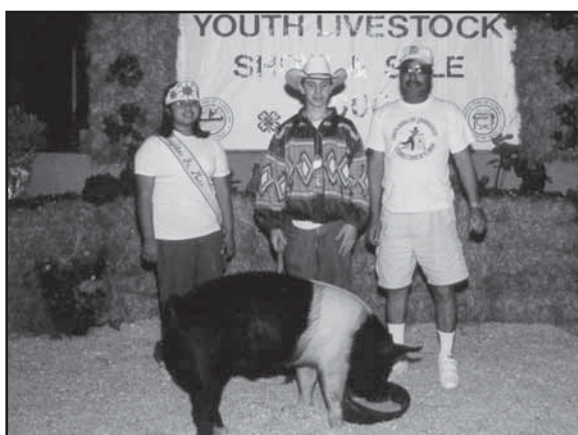
Teddy Osceola and Eighth Place Swine 250lbs.



Gregory Jumper and Ninth Place Swine 180lbs.



Allen Hernandez and Tenth Place Swine 210lbs.



Cory Ward and Tenth Place Swine.



*Our ancestors fought for the land,
the language and the Indian way of life.*

Let's continue to be heard.

The Census Can Be Our Voice.

The Census only comes around every ten years. For American Indians, the small investment of time to participate in Census 2000 means that the voice of our Indian communities, our ancestors and generations of Indian people to come will be heard. If we do not participate, we may not receive the services and programs we need. In the circle of life, we speak not only for ourselves, but for all our Indian people.

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

United States
**Census
2000**

Poster Contest Winners Announced



BIG CYPRESS — The students of Ahfachkee School (grades Pre-K-4 – 6) participated in a poster contest during the first two weeks of February as a project to celebrate Seminole Children's Dental Health Month. The contest began on Feb. 1 and ended Feb. 16. The posters were judged on Feb. 17.

All students who created a poster will receive an Interplak Rotary Brush, compliments of the Dental Prevention Program. The winners of the contest have their entries displayed on the Seminole Children's Dental Health Month Poster Calendar.

The winners of this year's contest are:

Ariah Osceola & Regan Osceola – Kindergarten.

Kaylee Jumper & Morningstar Webster – First Grade.

Brannon Billie & Hali Garcia – Second Grade.

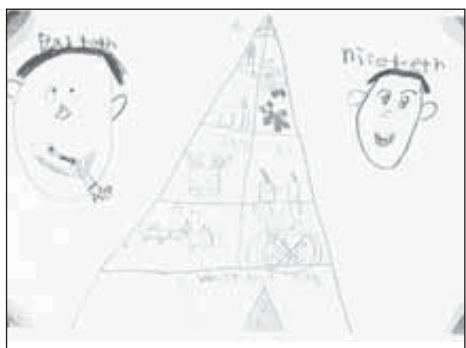
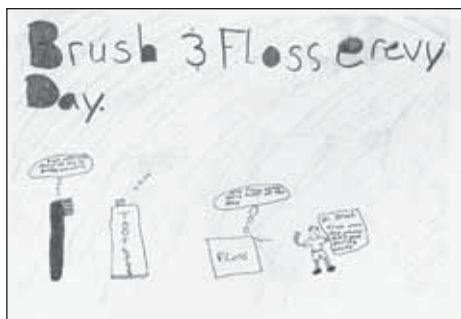
James "Micco" Billie &

Stephanie Hall – Third Grade.

Dawna Cypress & Serena Green – Fourth Grade.

Summer Billie & Sawena Otero – Fifth Grade.

The Dental Prevention Program extends a big "Thank You" to all who participated. A special "Thanks" to Ahfachkee School Art Instructor, Mrs. Jennifer Price, and Health and Physical Education Instructor, Ms. Bernadette Schyoinch, for their assistance with the contest.



EPA Announces Grant Funds

Notice of Availability of Funds for Tribal Blood-Lead Screening and Lead Awareness which announces the availability of funds from the US Environmental Protection Agency for tribes to conduct blood-lead screening and lead education and awareness activities for federally recognized tribes.

The notice appears in the Federal Register, Volume 65, Number 36, on Feb. 23, 2000 on pages 8967 to 8970.

EPA will be awarding 25-50 grants to tribes and tribal consortiums for amounts in the range of \$30,000 to \$50,000 each for projects that address the primary goal of the notice. These grants will be awarded entirely on the basis of EPA's evaluation of proposals submitted in response to the notice. Each proposal will be judged on the following general criteria:

Description of developing and implementing a blood-lead screening program;

Description of any existing or new lead education program; Efforts to target hard-to-reach tribal communities to inform families about childhood lead poisoning and screening;

Experience of key personnel; and Soundness and credibility of projected budget and schedule.

The application period will extend for a period of three months, ending on May 22, 2000. Additional copies of the Federal Register notice are available through the TSCA Hotline at 202 554-1404 or by visiting our web site at www.epa.gov/lead.

For further information contact Joseph S. Carra, Deputy Director, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7401), Environmental Protection Agency (Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone numbers: 202-554-1404; e-mail address: TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov.

Prepare For Accidental Poisoning

MIAMI — Poisoning is one of the leading causes of child health emergencies in Florida. More than 90 percent of poisoning exposures are accidental, and many of these crises can be avoided by following a few simple guidelines. March is Poison Prevention Awareness Month and a good time to educate ourselves about how to keep our homes and children safe from toxins.

A valuable first step is to post the Florida Poison Information Network (FPIN) toll-free number, 800-282-3171, near your phone. This 214-hour toll-free hotline is accessible by both voice and Text Telephone (TTY) and is staffed by specially trained nurses, pharmacists, physicians and toxicologists who have the latest poison assessment data at their fingertips.

"As the slogan for the month warns, 'Children Act Fast...So Do Poisons!' so parents must be extra vigilant when household chemicals or medications are in use," warns Melvyn Fletcher, M.D., vice-president and medical director for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Florida's South Geographic Business Unit. "If your cleaning regimen is interrupted by the doorbell or the telephone, don't leave a child unattended near a potentially hazardous substance — even for a few moments. Be sure to take either the child or the substance with you."

If you suspect a child has swallowed a toxic substance, call your Poison Control Center, 911, or your doctor — even if there seems to be no adverse effects such as vomiting, drowsiness, or burns around the mouth. Some products cause no immediate symptoms, but could cause problems later. If the substance

ingested was a household product, follow the first aid instructions on the label before calling for medical assistance.

"You may have heard that ipecac syrup should be given to poisoning victims. While every household should have some on hand, it should not be administered unless you are directed to so by a doctor or other trained medical professional," advised Dr. Fletcher. "In the meantime, the patient should lie on his or her left side, to slow down the progress of stomach contents to the small intestine, where absorption is more rapid."

When you call for medical assistance, be prepared to provide the following information: child's age, child's weight, existing health problems, substance involved and how it contacted the child (swallowed, inhaled, etc.), First aid already administered; If the child vomited and where you are and how long it will take you to get to a hospital.

For more information on poison prevention, or to report a dangerous product or product-related injury, call the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)'s hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270.

Deadlines Seminole Tribune

April 14 • March 31
May 5 • April 21
May 26 • May 12

Strengthen your family with the gift of good health



"Health is one of our most precious gifts... so are our children. Their spiritual, emotional and physical welfare is our responsibility."

Joanne Shenandoah
Native American Music Award Winner

Insure Kids Now

Don't Wait. Call toll free 1-877-543-7669
or visit www.insurekidsnow.gov

Your state's health insurance pays for

- Well-baby care
- Well-child care
- Immunizations

Your state may also pay for other medical services. Eligibility is based on income and family size. To find out more call 1-877-KIDS-NOW.

Children of all ages need regular check-ups

They also need medical care when they get sick. If you are working, your children may be able to sign up for your state's new health insurance program for little or no cost to you.

Students Attend Close Up Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During the USET Impact Week held Jan. 29 - Feb. 5, 20 young Tribal members joined youth from 16 other Tribes to participate in the Close Up Washington program.

The program, eligible to students in grades 10-12, provides an in-depth look at the political process with seminars, workshops, and Capitol Hill visits.

Speakers during the program represented different Native American organizations and included: Victoria Wright, Staff Attorney for the National Congress of American Indians; Keith Harper, Senior Staff Attorney for the Native American Rights Fund; Theresa Rosier, Counsel, and Mike Jackson, Deputy Staff Director, for the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

On Feb. 3, the students were able to visit the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs hearing room, SR-485 in the Russell Senate Office Building. "Remember that when you visit this city," said Mike Jackson, from the Committee



Seminole students watch action in Senate Indian Affairs Committee room.



Students with Rep. Mark Foley (R-16th) on steps of the Capitol.

minority staff, "this room is your room and this committee is your committee."

According to Jackson, it is the only committee in Congress where the majority and minority staffs share the same suite of offices. Speaking for the majority staff was Theresa Rosier, who works for Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell as a Counsel to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Rosier, a member of the Navajo Nation, is responsible for drafting legislation and overseeing federal programs regarding community and economic development for Native Americans.

"I knew in fourth grade that I wanted to go to law school," said Rosier. Her goal was to help out her grandparents who lived in the area that was targeted for the "Bennett Freeze," which began in 1966.

The region has no running water or paved roads. Although lifted temporarily, it largely remains in effect.

Rosier stood as an example to the students of how personal motivation can lift one person up from Page, Ariz., to Washington, D.C.

The students who attended the session were selected by their accomplishments in school. All had at least a 2.0 GPA, and were required to have good attendance and behavior records. The students who were selected are:

Big Cypress — Alex Tommie, Lindsey King, Adam Billie and Amy Coppedge. The chaperones were Patrick McElroy, Keno King and Betty King.

Hollywood — Jessica Buster, Seth Billie, Michael Gentry, Brett Green, Ricardo Hernandez and Megan Yescas. The chaperones were June Degnan and Virginia Osceola.

Brighton — Jeffrey Osceola, Holly Johns, John Gore, Kerri Coby, Lizina Bowers, Jill John and Patsy Snow. The chaperones were Louise Gopher, Joe John and John Huff.

Immokalee — Elijah Marrero and Tabitha Marrero. Chaperones were Norita Yzaguirre, Ray Yzaguirre and Criselda Marrero.

Ahfachkee Students Receive Awards

By T. Benn
BIG CYPRESS — Dr. Pat Gaffney was proud to see all the happy faces receiving awards for the second grading period Feb. 24.



Award in hand, Stephanie Hall smiles.

Every student in the Ahfachkee school system can earn an award, but the awards have to be earned. A student who attends Ahfachkee who does these four basic things can win an award. Be here, be here on time, and listen to your teacher, try your best and the awards will come.

Tribal Chairman James E. Billie greeted the students in native Seminole language and stated he wanted all the young people to not forget their heritage or their native tongue. He told them to study hard, listen, have the older students help the younger ones with their lessons, start the day with a good breakfast, get to school on time and use the time in school wisely.

Chairman Billie also told the young audience that school was not easy for him as a boy either. He told the students that he didn't start reading well until he was in the fourth grade.

Chairman Billie also took time to thank all the students for the beautiful cards and flowers he received from them after his alligator bite. He showed the concerned youngsters his hand so they could see for themselves how well it's healing.



Chairman Billie presented the Ahfachkee awards.

Each class teacher and their aids helped hand out the awards to the deserving students praising them for their outstanding achievements, and telling them they wanted to see them again after the next grading period.

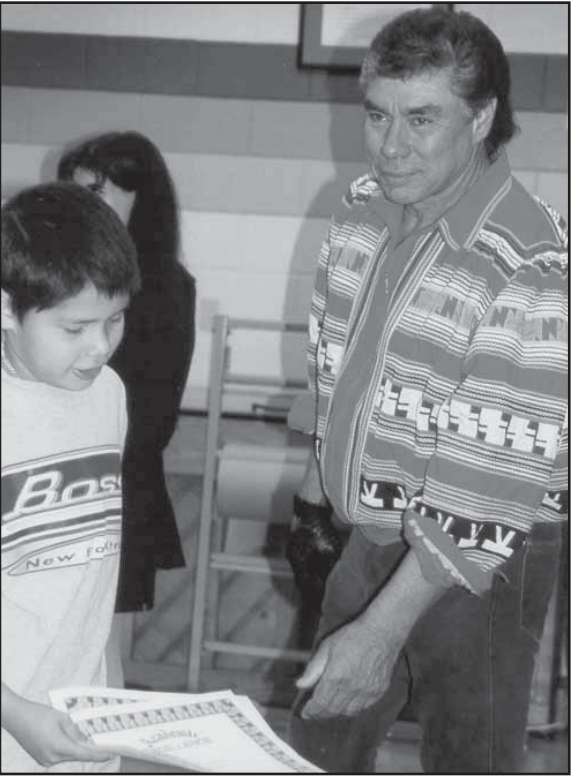
Academic Awards For Ahfachkee 2nd Quarter

All E's: Catlen Tommie, Akol Billie, Jonathan Robbins.
All S's: Klayton Sanders, Kahna Jumper, Kaylee Jumper, Dannie Billie.
Academic Excellence: Clayton Hall,

Chebon Gooden-Harden, Rubi-Anne Alexander, Hali Garcia.
A Honor Roll: Klabessa Osceola, Wilson Bowers, Klaitha Reid, Lindsey King.

B Honor Roll: Stephanie Hall, Lauren Barcus, Cody Billie, Micco Billie, Dion Sanders, Kayla Bowers, Alex Cypress, Summer Billie, Katherine Billie, Benny Hernandez, Sawena Otero, Sonny Billie, Owachige Redmond, Chief Charlie Osceola, Andrew

Bowers, Shena Reid.
Perfect Attendance: Bradley Osceola, Klayton Sanders, Eric Sanders, Dion Sanders, Shena Reid, Victoria Hernandez, Lindsey King, Matthew Billie.
Perfect Punctuality: Tyler Cypress, Ricky Joe Alumbaugh, Jalen Cypress, Tylor Tigertail, Joey Simone, Daylyn Hall, Rubi-Anne Alexander, Dion Sanders, Katrina Bettelyoun, Jodi Simone, Benny Hernandez, Summer Billie, Sonny Billie, Allison Garza, Krystal Garza, Victoria Hernandez, Marvin Billie, Andrew Bowers.



B-Honor Roll student Alex Cypress gets award.



Micco Billie with B-Honor Roll award received from father James.



Sonny Nevaquaya, back row, second from left, with participants and retreat instructors.

Students Enjoy First Flute Retreat

By T. Benn

BIG CYPRESS — Sonny Nevaquaya, one of Native America's most gifted flute players, gathered 12 interested students for the 1st Annual Florida Flute Retreat at the Billie Swamp Safari Feb. 23 – 27.

The five-day event was hosted by Sonny and his Seminole wife Christine Nelson Nevaquaya. Students came from as far away as Canada and included Native Americans from the Apache, Cherokee, Mohawk and Caddo tribes. Several non-Indians voyaged as well to study with the internationally acclaimed recording artist.

Seminole Moses "Big Shot" Jumper took part in the seminar as well. Moses had asked his mother, Dr. Betty Mae Jumper if the flute was a traditional Seminole instrument. She added that she remembered as a small girl that her Uncle Jimmy Tiger played a rough and crude flute in the evening.

The flute had three holes and he also used it to call birds when he was hunting in the Glades around Indiantown.

Legends also say that the small flute was used to signal other Indian bands of the movement of Army soldiers or anyone who might trespass onto Indian lands.

Each participant in the retreat made a flute under the instruction of Nevaquaya and his assistants Dock Green and Ms. Carol Grace. Each flute – as Nevaquaya said – has its own soul, as no two flutes will ever sound alike because of the wood and the skill of the flute maker.

Nevaquaya stated that if two flutes were made, at the same time using the same wood and by the same maker that the flutes might be close in sound, but never identical.

A new music writing and reading system created by R.Carlos Nakai for the Native American Flute was also used. This system uses a scale of 15 notes and ½ notes and was taught under the guidance of Nevaquaya, Carol Grace and Nancy Absrod.

"I wanted to have as much hands on, and one on one with each student that time allowed," Nevaquaya said. "I wanted each student to walk away more enlightened in Native American music than when they came, and I think we achieved that. It was very successful from my point of view."

Sonny and Christine also host the Florida Flute Circle that meets once a month. If anyone is interested, they can call (954) 983-4372.

Budget

Continued from page 1

Health Care: \$2.6 Billion, an increase of \$230 Million, for the Indian Health Service.

Building and Repairing Infrastructure: \$349 Million, an increase of \$117 Million, to build roads and bridges in Indian Country; \$49 Million, an increase of \$46 million, for tribal Infrastructure Projects.

Details of the initiative include:
Providing for Educational Opportunities, School Construction and Repair -- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) School Construction and Repair. The President proposes \$300 million, more than double the FY 2000 enacted level of \$133 million, to replace and repair BIA-funded schools on reservations. This is the largest investment ever in a single year for BIA school construction and repair.

Training and Recruiting Native American Teachers. The budget provides \$10 million for the Education Department to continue the second year of the Administration's initiative to begin training and recruiting 1,000 new teachers for areas with high concentrations of American Indian and Alaska Native students.

New American Indian Administrator Corps. The budget proposes \$5 million for a new Department of Education initiative, the American Indian Administrator Corps that will support the recruitment, training, and in-service professional development of 500 American Indians and Alaska Natives to become effective school administrators in schools with high populations of Native American students.

New School Renovation Loan and Grant Program. This new \$1.3 billion initiative leverages nearly \$7 billion of (approximately 8,300) renovation projects in high-need school districts with little or no capacity to fund urgent repairs. Within this program, the President has allocated \$50 million for grants to public schools with high concentrations of Native American students.

Increased Funding for Tribal Colleges. The budget proposes a total of \$77 million, an increase of \$25 million over FY2000, for support to tribal colleges through funding at the National Science Foundation, and the Departments of the Interior, Education, Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, and Transportation.

Empowering Communities, Expanding New Markets Initiatives. Addressing the Digital Divide. The Administration proposes this new initiative to encourage Native Americans to pursue as a course of study information technology and other science and technology fields as well as to increase the capacity of tribal colleges to offer courses in these areas. The budget provides \$10 million, to be administered by the National Science Foundation, for grants to tribal colleges for networking and access; course development; student assistance; and capacity building.

Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) Expansion. The Administration requested an increase over last year's funding of the CDFI program to continue building a national network of community development banks. In order to increase access to capital in Indian Country, the budget proposes, for the first time, a \$5 million set-aside within the CDFI Fund to establish a training and technical assistance program focused on eliminating barriers to capital access.

Business Assistance at the Small Business Administration. The budget proposes new funding to create Small Business Development Centers (SBDCs) in Indian Country to provide business and technical

assistance to Native American entrepreneurs. These new tribal SBDCs will work in tandem with the seventeen existing Tribal Business Information Centers. A total of \$4.5 million is provided for this initiative.

Expanding Business LINC to Indian Country. For the first time, the budget proposes \$1.25 million to expand the Vice President's successful BusinessLINC program to Indian Country. BusinessLINC establishes mentor-protégé relationships between large and small businesses. The goal of BusinessLINC is to encourage large firms to provide technical assistance, business advice, networking, investment, and joint venturing opportunities for locally owned small firms.

Strengthening Tribal Environmental Programs. The President's budget increases funding for the EPA's General Assistance Program (GAP) by \$10 million for a total of \$53 million. GAP grants fund tribal institutional capacity building for implementing environmental programs on Indian lands. GAP grants have increased from \$8 million in 1993 to the FY2001 proposed level of \$53 million.

Promoting Public Safety. Improving Law Enforcement in Indian Country. The budget includes \$439 million, an increase of \$103 million over FY 2000, for the Departments of Justice and Interior for the third year of the President's Indian Country Law Enforcement Initiative. This funding will increase the number of law enforcement officers on Indian lands, provide more equipment, expand detention facilities, enhance juvenile crime prevention, and improve the effectiveness of tribal courts.

Providing Health Care. Indian Health Service. The President's budget proposes \$2.6 billion, an increase for the Indian Health Service (IHS) of \$230 million or 10 percent over the FY 2000 enacted level. This increase would enable IHS to continue expanding accessible and high-quality health care to its approximately 1.5 million Native American service users.

Helping to Build Infrastructure. Building Roads and Bridges in Indian Country. The President's budget proposes to give the Indian Reservations Roads program at the Department of Transportation the full authorization amount of \$275 million with an additional \$74 million from a highway receipts account for a total of \$349 million, which is an increase of \$117 million over the previous year. This will allow Tribes to address the estimated backlog of \$4 billion in needs on these roads and bridges. Within the BIA, \$32 million will be used to maintain BIA and tribal roads on reservations.

Tribal Infrastructure Projects. The President and the Vice President propose \$49 million, an increase of \$46 million over FY 2000, for the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) to fund infrastructure, planning, and public works projects.

Happy Easter!
from the
Seminole Tribune

Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday

Birthday wishes are being sent to my grandchildren, **Saige Osceola**, who turned a year old on March 9th and **Shelby “Doug” Story**, who will be turning two years old on March 15.

Ms. Saige, always remember that **Grandma** loves you and if **Mom** and **Amos** try to get tough with you, you know whose house to go to. You are a true blessing and I am grateful that you are a part of my life. Chagups, always stay sweet and loveable, try not to be like your big brother, the famous CowChip! Love you and Happy Birthday.

Mr. “Doug,” what can one say about you? You are a source of pure joy to me! You try to be tough with everybody, but Grandma knows that is only an act. You had a tough first year with your health the way it was, but the Lord willing, you and I have seen you reach your second birthday and for this I am eternally grateful. “Doug,” stay true to yourself and never change! Love you and Happy Birthday.

Hugs and kisses to both of you, Love **Grandma Theresa**.

Birthday wishes are being sent to my grandchildren, **Saige Osceola**, who turned a year old on March 9th and **Shelby “Doug” Story**, who will be turning two years old on March 15. **Happy 2nd Birthday** to our baby, **Shelby “Chia” Story**. Love, **Mom** and **Dad**.

Chia, we wish you a **Happy Birthday!** Love your brothers, **Christopher** and **Richie** and your sister, **Haley**. P.S. We'll try and talk mom into buying you all the Pokemon stuff that you want.

Happy 24th Birthday Ernie Tiger on March 15th. From the **Communications Department**.

Happy Birthday to Dwight Ike Jumper on March 18.

Happy Birthday to Jerome Ray Jumper from **Rosetta** and **Ike Jumper**.

Happy Birthday to Perry Joe Arkeketa from **Rosetta Jumper**.

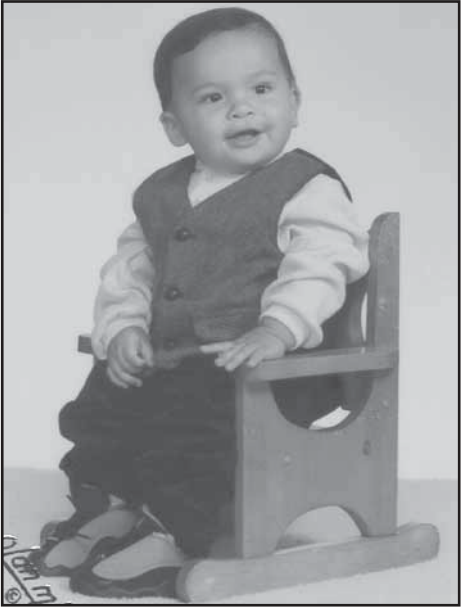
Happy late 2nd birthday to Drayton Kayne Billie on March 13th. Stay crazy and have fun! Love; **Mona**, **Woody**, **Jaryaca** & **Kiylier**



Happy Birthday to Police Chief **Thomas Robert Hernan** on March 16. From the **staff** at Seminole Department Law Enforcement.



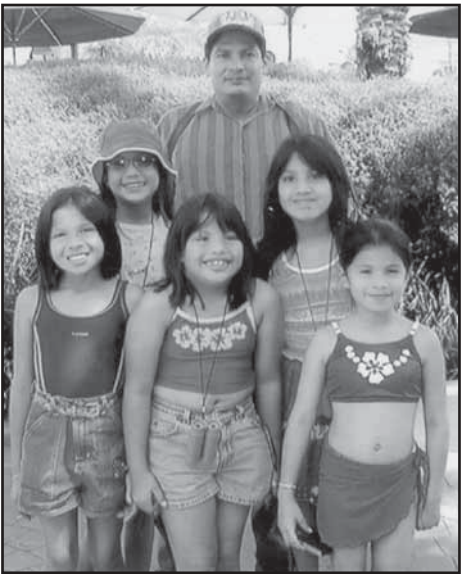
To my baby, **Saige Osceola**: I can't begin to describe how much joy you have brought to my life in the short time you have been with me. Everyday it's like we learn more and more about each other and my love for you grows and grows with each passing day. We've made it through our rough times and now we take things day by day. Just remember that you are my sunshine always. **Happy 1st Birthday, Big Chagups!**



To **Doug (Shelby Story)**: Just wanted to wish you a **Happy Birthday**. Tell **Momma** to make it a good one! Take advantage of the Terrible Two's! From, **Aunt Elizabeth**, **Amos** and your cousins **Chagups** and **Ahfatlee**.



We want to wish our **Daddy** a big **56th Birthday** on March 20, 2000. We love you **Daddy**. If anyone deserves a special day, it's you **Daddy**. We love you, **Micco** and **Kowako**.



Happy Birthday to our Daddy! We love you very much and have a blast on your birthday. Love, “**Charlie’s Little Angels**” **Rhiannon**, **Ceejae**, **Deandra**, **Stephanie**, and **Ann**.

Happy Birthday to Charlie Tiger Jr. To my one and only love, you make it a night to remember. Love you always, your wife **Ginger T. Tiger**.



To **Chagups Osceola**: **Happy Birthday** to a one of a kind girl. We love you always. From, **Momma**, **Amos** and **Ahfatlee**.

New Born



New Arrival: Congratulations to the parents of **Aaron Thasia Olejnik**. Baby Aaron was born on Jan. 14, 2000 at 7:14 p.m. He weighed 8 lbs. 10 oz. The parents are **Peter Olejnik** and **Crystal Jumper**.

Jobs

Position: Staff Nutritionist Location: Health Dept. – Brighton Opening: Feb. 2, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$30,000/yearly (negotiable) plus benefits	Position: Survey Party Chief Location: Water Resource Management Big Cypress Jan. 27, 00 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$14.03 per hour plus benefits	Position: Staff Nutritionist Location: Health Department Brighton Opening: February 2, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$30,000/Yearly (Negotiable) Plus Benefits	Position: Maintenance Worker Location: Building and Grounds Brighton Opening: February 24, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$6.50 Per hour plus benefits	Position: Operator Maintenance Location: Trainee Utilities – Hollywood February 23, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$8.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Cashier Location: Tribal Smoke Shop Coconut Creek February 23, 2000 Closing: March 8, 2000 Salary: \$5.52 per hour + benefits	Position: Tour Guide Location: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Feb. 15, 200 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Dental Assistant Location: Health (Hollywood) Feb. 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$10.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Community Health Location: Representative Health (Brighton) Feb. 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$9.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Assistant Cook/Janitor Location: Nutrition (Hot Meals) Hollywood January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$8.73 per hour plus benefits	Position: Assistant Education Location: Counselor Education (Big Cypress) January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.18 per hour plus benefits	Position: Certified Behavioral Location: Analyst (LaBelle) Health (Big Cypress)	Opening: January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$25,000 – 35,000 annually plus benefits	Position: Direct Care Aides Location: (5 needed in LaBelle) Health Department Big Cypress January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$10.00 – 15.00 per hour full time	Position: Alternative High School Location: Teacher in Math and Science Ahfachkee School Big Cypress January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: Based on salary schedule	Position: Assistant Cook Location: Preschool Program (Brighton) February 9, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$8.29 per hour plus benefits	Position: Speech Language Therapist Location: Ahfachkee School Big Cypress February 22, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: Based on Instructional Salary Scale	Position: Reading Specialist Location: Ahfachkee School Big Cypress January 12, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: Instructional salary scale plus benefits	Position: Grove Maintenance/ Location: Operator 1 Citrus Grove (Brighton) January 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Transporter Location: Health (Big Cypress) January 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.90 per hour plus benefits	Position: Teacher Aide II – 2 need/ Location: 1 year olds & infants Education Preschool Hollywood February 29, 2000 Closing: March 14, 2000 Salary: \$8.73 per hour plus benefits	Position: Maintenance Supervisor Location: Buildings and Grounds Big Cypress March 8, 2000 Closing: March 22, 2000 Salary: \$8.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Classroom Teacher Location: Ahfachkee School Big Cypress November 22, 1999 Closing: Until Filled Salary: Negotiable (Instructional Salary Schedule)
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Notices

Penn State offers Education Doctoral Fellowships – Deadline for submitting applications is April 20 for Fall Semester 2000 and Nov. 20 for Spring Semester 2001. To American Indian and Alaska Native students interested in doctoral level training in special education or educational administration. To prepare American Indian/Alaska Natives to be leaders in special education by completing doctoral degree programs in either special education or educational administration. Focus will be on special education, educational administration, leadership, policy, and Indian education. Contact Dr. Gajar at 814-863-1626.

National Trust for Historic Preservation – Preservation Week, May 14 – 20, 2000. This year's theme is “Taking America's Past Into the Future.” For more information, visit web site at www.national-trust.org.

Zellwood Sweet Corn Festival – May 20-21- Join the more than 26,000 people who attend each year to consume more than 200,000 ears of corn. Family fun with contests, carnival rides, games, arts & crafts along with country artists. Call 407-886-0014 for information.

Florida Film Festival – June 9 – 18. Many of the festival's events are held at the Enzian Theater. Phone 407-629-1088.

Homosassa River Raft Race – June 5 – Great fun with homemade rafts providing the entertainment. Call Citrus 95 Radio station at 352-795-9595.

3rd Annual Agro-Ecology Conference – Eco-Tourism on Public & Private Lands in Florida – May 15 – 18, 2000. To be held at the Marriott Hotel, Palm Beach Gardens. For information call 561-691-8554 or visit our web site: www.ces.fau.edu.

National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in American Higher Education – June 1 through June 5, 2000 in Santa Fe, NM. 405-325-2248

The Annual Mid-Atlantic Gaming Congress – April 25-26, 2000 at the Atlantic City Convention Center, Atlantic City, NJ. For information call 212-468-1695.

The 7th Annual: Tribal Secretaries Conference – April 24-27, 2000 at the MGM

Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, NV. Call us at 800-992-4489 and mention code C100s to register.

14th Annual Arizona State University Spring Competition Pow Wow – April 21 – 23, 2000. Info: Lee Williams at 480-965-5224.

ASU American Indian Culture Week – April 15-23 – Info: 480-965-8044.

AAIP 29th Annual Meeting and National Health Conference – Aug. 3-8, 2000. To be held at the Westin La Paloma Hotel, Tucson, AZ. Invitation extended to all Indian and non-Indian physicians, physician assistants, medical students, nurses, tribal leaders, Indian organizations and other individuals interested in Indian Health. Make your reservations by July 12, 2000. Call 520-742-6000 or visit Westin's web site at <http://www.westin.com>. AAIP at 405-946-7072, <http://www.aaip.com>, email: aaip@ionet.net.

Third Annual National Native American Youth Initiative (NNAYI) – June 17 – 25, 2000 in Washington, DC. The goals of the NNAYI are to motivate Native American students to remain in the academic pipeline and to pursue a career in the health professions and/or biomedical research. For application download on the AAIP web site <http://www.aaip.com/student/nnayi>. For information contact Lancer Stephens or Bryan Whish at 405-946-7072.

Cross Cultural Medicine Workshop – April 27 – 30, 2000. Presented by Association of American Indian Physicians, will be held in Albuquerque, NM. Make reservations by April 15, 2000 at 800-228-9290. Workshop on cross cultural medicine designed to provide physicians, medical students, faculty, minority program staff and counselors, and other health care professionals with a greater understanding of Western and Traditional Medicine.

Ending Violence Against Native Women Training Institute – April 3- 7, 2000 at the Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel, Albuquerque, NM. Phone 505-843-7000.

National Skills Enhancement – April 27-29, 2000 at the Radisson Inn Airport, Albuquerque, NM. Call J. Dalton Institute at 800-706-0102 for more information.

Congratulations



Student of the Month Shelli Mae Osceola.

Congratulations to Ms. **Shelli Mae Osceola**, member of the Bear Clan. Shelli was chosen as **Student of the Month** for March. Shelli is in the second grade at Driftwood Elementary. Her teacher is Ms. Mauck. Shelli received a certificate for her endeavors and for her perfect attendance.

We are all very proud of our little girl. Don't give up; keep up with all that you go after. We're there for you no matter how difficult it might seem at times.

Love you always, **Your Family!**

Thank You

The Family of Alice Billieboy would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and wishes on her passing. We want to especially thank The Chairman's office, The President's office, our Hollywood Councilman Max B. Osceola, Jr., our Hollywood Board Representative Carl Baxley, The Secretary- Treasurer's office and The Seminole Department of Law Enforcement. All of you made this transition that much easier for us. Your support and kindness will always be remembered.

— *The Family of Alice Billieboy.*



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Mahsetki, it was held in a grass arena framed by a giant truckload of hay bales graciously donated by Seminole Brighton/Tampa Councilman Jack Smith Jr.

Winners were awarded a total of \$15,000 in cash prizes at the end of the powwow on Sunday. They included Joyce McSwain (Golden Age Women); Wilson Roberts (Golden Age Men); Little Deer Big Mountain (Straight Men, Hoop Dance Champion); Judy Gibson (Buckskin Women); Katrina Big Mountain (Fancy Shawl); Lance Cully (Men's Grass); Jennifer Jones (Jingle Dress); Michael Roberts (Men's Fancy); Ruben Burgess (Men's Traditional); Melissa Black (Women's Traditional).

Little Eagle, from Ada, Okla took the coveted drum championship. The Southern Boys, from Norman, Okla., were the host drum. Head Man was Michael Roberts, Head Lady was Rebecca Roberts and Arena Director was Ron Gibson. "This is one of the best powwows going on in this part of the country today," said Mahsetki, who also handled the announcing duties. "Next year if we raise the prize money a little bit, we'll have all the great competitors here."

For native balladeer Bill Miller, winner of five recent Nammys, "this was one of the best musical experiences I have ever had. This is a great crowd and an intimate setting that any musician would love." Miller performed twice on the main stage with his full band and twice at the Children's Village, one time even jamming onstage with Ulali before cheering children and parents. Dozens of Bill Miller fans showed up just to see their hero, amazed there was no admission charge.

"Ulali is what brought me here," said one fan who drove down from Gainesville. "You don't get any better native music than that." The haunting, melodic tribal vocal harmonies of Jennifer, Sonny and Pura Fe were definite crowd favorites. The three women also appeared inside Eckerd's Dendy-McNair Auditorium before the screening of the film "Alcatraz Is Not An Island," which featured their voices on the sound track.

Apache funnyman Drew Lacapa was master of ceremonies, stage manager and "down time filler," during the DNA shows, returning a few weeks later to emcee Chief Jim Billie's 56th birthday party at Alligator Alley in Sunrise. "I really liked ol' Paul Buster's band and Paula Bowers, too. Now there's a hot number," he said. "I noticed a lot of men in the audience when she was playing."

Country music is singer Paul Buster's forte and he belted it out in a band that included both his



More than 150 dancers and performers thrilled the DNA 2000 crowd. (L) Men's traditional dance champion Ruben Burgess; (R) famed Ulali singer Pura Fe.

flute player Sonny Nevaquaya made surprise appearances – and performed special songs — at a tribute to the late Noah Billie, held in the foyer of the St. Petersburg Museum of History. A packed house of family, friends and dignitaries heard stories of Noah's life from emcee Joe Dan Osceola, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki director Billy Cypress and brother Mark Billie. Dr. Pat Wickman and painter Guy LaBree discussed Noah's art contributions and place in Seminole history.

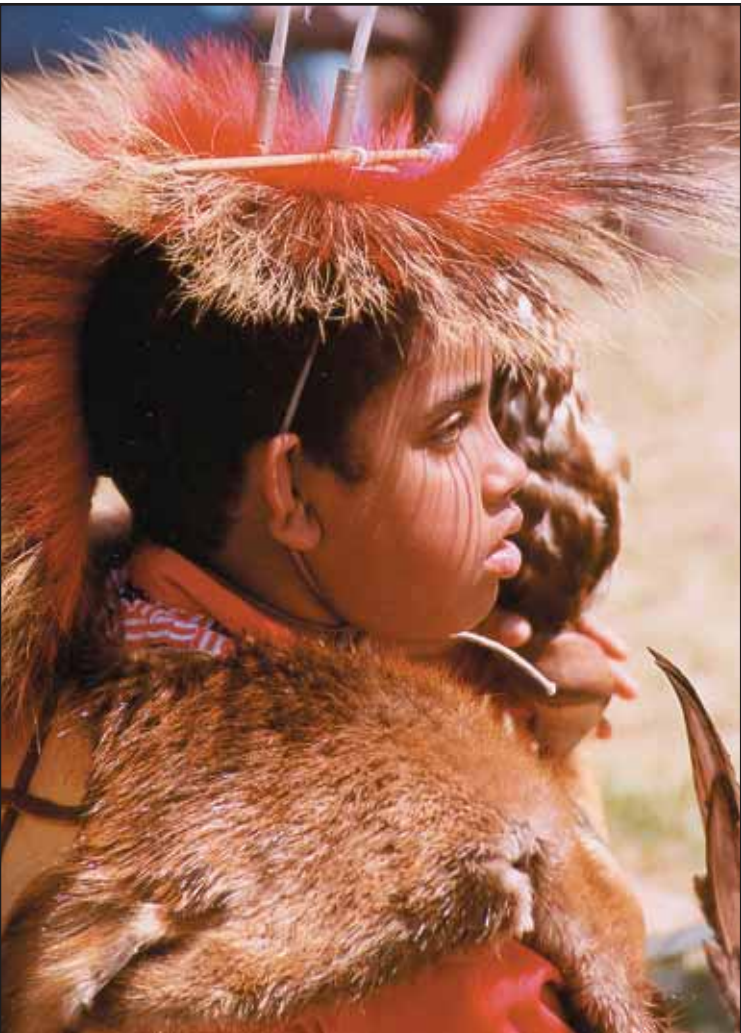
Tampa medicine man Bobby Henry offered the invocation. Eckerd professors Carolyn Johnston and Catherine Griggs and St. Petersburg Museum Director Sam Bond also spoke at the event, which

of the credit for the large attendance at the village should go to the Pinellas County School Board, said Ms. Banana: "They included a flyer for the festival in the 'pony' which goes out to all the schoolteachers in Pinellas County." Other benefactors included George Glasser, Bisque Itz, Boo Ehrsam and the Pinellas Park Arts Society which donated artifacts for the popular kids archaeological dig.

"One of the most remarkable parts of this whole event were the wonderful study guides we created for teachers concerning Seminole culture and this event," remarked Tribal Education Officer Vivian Crooks. A committee of Eckerd and Seminole Education staffers, directed by Shana Smith, pro-

Powwow Highway, and a blues harmonica player in his spare time. "This was one of the nicest groups of people we've ever had here at Ferg's. We had no trouble at all," said Ferguson. "I'd love to do this again next year."

The Seminoles' Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum sponsored the Noah Billie exhibit at the St. Petersburg Museum of History (the paintings will remain on display until March 31), the Living Seminole Village and the appearance of Seminole storyteller Carol Cypress. Billie Swamp Safari provided Ray Becerra's Bird of Prey Show as well as the popular appearance of Swamp Owl and his horse. Tribal President Mitchell Cypress' office sponsored



PATIENCE: Young dancer awaits his turn in the Florida sun.

son and daughter. Ms. Bowers, also a Seminole Tribal member, unveiled her new band, all native players from the Immokalee area, mixing new alternative songs with more traditional contemporary numbers with a real electric sound.

Still unable to play guitar since an alligator chomped off his finger the month before, Chief Billie's voice was in fine shape, as he transfixed the crowd with intimate glimpses into his life and the swampy world he knows so well. Backed up by Raiford Starke and the Shack Daddies band, the Chief performed many of his hit songs, including "Big Alligator," "Old Ways," and "Back To The Swamp."

Miller, Tree Cody and the famous native



SMILEY: Seminole Milani Doctor leaving the Children's Village.

ended with a wonderful dance demonstration from the young Seminole grass-dancers (William Osceola, Micco Billie, Casey McCall and Kowoko Billie) to William Cypress' drum and singing.

"The vendors were real happy. This was a great show for them," said Nancy Motlow, the former Seminole councilwoman who organized the large marketplace, which connected the Main Stage, Powwow Arena and Children's Village. She was assisted by Mary Big Horse and Chris Queen. "I didn't have a single complaint. The people were there and they were really shopping."

Legendary Arcadia painter Guy LaBree displayed his colorful Seminole inspired paintings next to the work of Lamont sculptors Brad Cooley and son Brad Cooley Jr.

An estimated 2,000 children were entertained at the Children's Village, which was coordinated by national children's artist Shana Banana, with the help of Eckerd's Jim Annarelli and Margret Skafftodir and student assistant Jackie Weiss. Much

duced/refined several guides that were put onto the Tribal Internet by webmaster Teresa Robotham at www.seminoletribe.com/calendar/dna/studyguide/.

"This was the start of an exciting ongoing project," said Mrs. Crooks. "We plan to expand this site over time to provide all sorts of cultural-based study guides and lesson plans for teachers interested in the Seminoles."

This year's DNA event was a true community effort, according to DNA coordinator Michelle Simoneau, who noted that the city of St. Petersburg advertised the event – free of charge – in city water bills and other city venues and assisted with traffic control.

The Pinellas Volunteer Action Center (supervised by Cynthia Fox and Stephanie Cullen) provided more than 200 volunteers who assisted with event production and were "the nuts and bolts" of the smooth-running festival, said DNA Producer Pete Gallagher: "Since this show is free to the public, we try hard to keep the costs down. I was surprised how hard working and dependable our community volunteers were." Gallagher also praised the 30 Eckerd College students who volunteered in various capacities. Chairman Billie promised to reward volunteers and other DNA workers with a special party.

Major sponsors included the Fun Stuff Party Store (Children's Village), *Weekly Planet*, *Tampa Tribune*, Tampa Bay Newspapers, Inc. (all provided thousands of dollars in free advertising), the Holiday Inn Sunspree and Ameriprint. As always, Tribal friend Billy Moore of Tierre Verde provided fresh shrimp dinners for dancers and volunteers from his nearby gourmet Billy's Stone Crab and Steak House restaurant. Domino's Pizza did the same with dozens of pepperoni and cheese pizzas.

Mark Ferguson, owner of Ferg's Sports Bar in downtown St. Petersburg, sponsored an American Indian Music night on Saturday evening. The event, hosted by Raiford Starke and band, attracted hundreds of American Indians in town for the event. Most of the performers jammed onstage, including Farmer, star of *Smoke Signals*, and



Mohawk singer Bill Miller strains for high notes on the DNA Main Stage.

the appearance of the nationally famous Seminole Veteran's Color Guard. Miss Seminole Suraiya Youngblood and Junior Miss Seminole Mercedes Osceola were also in attendance.

Many thousands more viewed the DNA event on the Tribal website (www.seminoletribe.com) as it transpired. Armed on site with a digital camera, Seminole Communications graphic designer Melissa Sherman worked with Tribal webmaster Teresa Robotham on an "interactive" presentation that included still photos and video.

The DNA "Native Visions, Native Voices" Film Festival, one of only two such native events known to exist, went a full seven days, with nightly screenings and presentations from the top directors and film producers in Indian Country. Michael Smith, Director of the American Indian Film Institute, joined luminaries such as Annie Frazier Henry, James Fortier, the Smithsonian's Elizabeth Weatherford, Lena Carr, Beverly Singer, Barb Cranmer and others in the critically acclaimed festival. Tribal Broadcasting (SBC) Director Danny Jumper presented his film on Susie Billie and other SBC-produced videos.

Among the many contributors to the success of the film event, according to Film Festival Director Catherine Griggs of Eckerd, were The Beach Theatre, Eckerd College Organization of Students Academic Affairs Committee (Daphne MacFarlan, Director); Eckerd Program For Experienced Learners (PEL-A.C.E.), Eckerd Letters Collegium, NationsBank, Joshua Tree and Geoffrey's Coffee.



Raiford Starke, Seminole youth, Swamp Safari's Ray Becerra help Chief Billie sing "Big Alligator" in Children's Village.



STORYTELLER: Carol Cypress tells tales of Seminole lore.