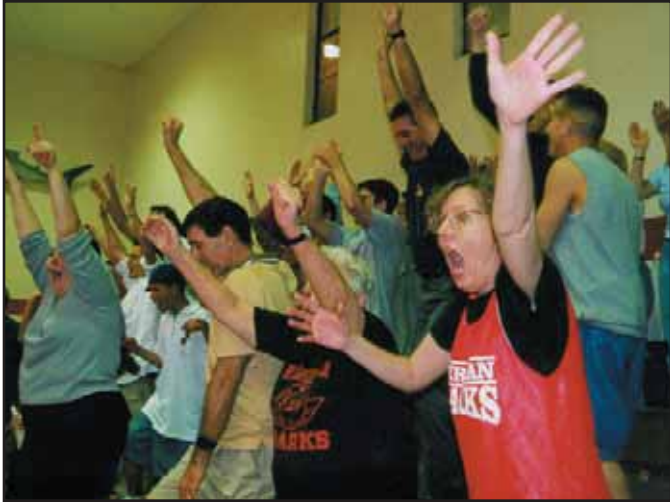




Seminole Grass Dancers honored at Fair, see special section.



Tribe gives Broward Commisioners framed Seminole Heritage Celebration poster.



Shark attack, page 10.



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March 3, 2000

## Hunting Gator

By Colin Kenny

**BIG CYPRESS** — Jay Young has handled many a gator on his father’s alligator farm for the last 13 years. He has done it all, from wrestling the surly reptiles in front of gaping spectators and raising the mega-lizards from birth to nursing some

**Colorado Gator Farmers** really sickly saurians back to health.

Unlike many alligator wrestlers, though, Jay has yet to have a close encounter with the scaly beastie in its natural habitat.

But then again, one doesn’t encounter too many wild gators — in Colorado.

As the main alligator wrangler out west, it was Jay who got the call to bring one to New Mexico last November. The caller was Seminole Chief Jim Billie who wanted to bring a live gator on stage with him at the Native American Music Awards (NAMA) in Albuquerque, N.M.

A few hours after the Chief called, Jay, 25, and Paul Wertz, 28, of Colorado Gators were carrying an eight-foot gator to the stage while the Chief performed his signature song “Big Alligator” to a frenzied, sold out Popejoy Hall crowd at the University of New Mexico.

Chief Billie returned the favor last week by having the two young men, Jay’s pregnant wife, Cathy, and Paul’s fiancée, Fawn, flown to Big Cypress, Florida for some real live gator huntin.’

Chief Billie — along with experienced gator-men Joe Don Billie, Danny Johns, and Roscoe Coon — took the Coloradoans down Snake Road to a spot near the Seminole/Miccosukee reservation line where a fairly large gator had been spotted earlier on the bank of the canal. Though it was not now on the bank, the gator was believed by all to be hiding in close proximity in the murky waters below. The object, the Chief said later, was not to kill, but to remove the reptile from the canal and relocate it to a safer place.

Chief Billie said he generally doesn’t like the alligators in the canal to get too big, thus providing a tempting target for poachers driving by, who will tend to just shoot at the big ones and leave the rotting carcasses.

Danny Johns led the way (with his arm in a splint — broken in a horseback riding accident), as he, Jay and Paul fearlessly waded into the canal. They used seven-foot poles to check water depth and to stir the gator, believed to be hiding at the bottom of the dark water canal. In these canals you

See GATOR, page 8

## USET Focuses On President’s Budget

By E. Bowers

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Much of the discussion at the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) Impact Week meeting Jan. 30 – Feb. 4, focused on President Clinton’s State of the Union pledge to allocate \$1.2 billion to Indian programs in the presidential budget.

“Almost every single agency in the government will have an Indian initiative,” said Lynn Cutler, Deputy Assistant to the President and Senior Advisor to the Chief of Staff for Indian Affairs. “Those that already have one will be expanded.”

According to Cutler, a large part of the budget increase is marked for economic development and education in Indian Country.

However, the billion-dollar increase is only a proposal by the President. Many of the Congressional speakers at Impact Week were preparing to protect the increase during what will be a short and busy second Congressional session during an election year.

Rep. George Miller (D-CA), a ranking minority member on the House Resources Committee, saw an upside to the abbreviated session. “There will only be 77 legislative days,” said Miller. “When Congress hangs around longer and longer, there’s more opportunity for mischief. We’ll make sure we hang onto what the President recommends.”

The placement of Native Americans in the State of the Union address was achieved by the combined efforts of tribes and their congressional allies. Rep. Dale Kildee (D-MI), co-chairman of the Congressional Native American Caucus, rode on Air Force One with President Clinton on his visit to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota.

His goal was to use valuable “face time” with the President to serve notice to Indian opponents. “We were determined to work with the White House to get Indians mentioned in the State of the Union address,” said Rep. Kildee, “to get the attention of the Istooks.”

Rep. Ernest Istook (R-OK) tried to attach amendments to the FY1997 and FY1998 Appropriations Bills that would restrict land being taken into trust for Indian tribes unless the tribe

See USET, page 3



GRANDMOTHER AT THE COOK FIRE: One of 17 Noah Billie paintings on display until March 31 at the St. Petersburg Museum of History.

## Noah Billie: Portrait Of The Seminole Artist

By Charles Flowers

There is something about Noah Billie’s work that brings a smile. Part of it may come from the simple discovery of it, hidden away in some attic or private home, or a wall in the Seminole Tribal headquarters, where secretaries shoot suspicious gazes at museum curators who want to “borrow” their paintings. The search for Noah Billie’s paintings, like the search for his life, has more than its share of blind alleys, of silences, and smoothed-over recollections. Brush strokes hide secret passages.

Noah Billie was not an easy man to know. But his art? Now that’s a different story.

His talent for art, and his subject matter, came from his parents, Alice and Charlie Billieboy (Noah, like the rest of his generation, would drop the “boy”), and his grand-fathers, Ingram Billie and Sam Huff. Noah’s father carved souvenirs and sold them

to tourists on the Jungle Queen, a tourist boat that still cruises daily out of Bahia Mar on Fort Lauderdale Beach. His mother, who passed away earlier this month, was legendary for her beadwork.

His wife Brenda remembers Noah as a man who straddled at least two cultures: the traditional Seminole culture of his parents and grand-parents — the way of life he lived on the Trail and Big Cypress and Brighton — and the swiftly changing urban landscape he saw when the family moved to Hollywood, when Noah was about eight. Although still living on a reservation, he attended mostly white Driftwood Middle and McArthur High schools.

The first difference, he told Brenda, was shoes. At Brighton, they were unnecessary. At Stirling Elementary, they were mandatory. The second difference was recreation. At Brighton and Big Cypress, there was hunting (Noah once attempted

squirrel hunting with a knife, brother Mark remembers, and ended up sticking himself in the shoulder and being rushed to the hospital in Clewiston).

“He was strong-willed,” said Mark. “If he set his mind to something, he would do it no matter what anyone said.”

In Hollywood, there was football. “He was the biggest guy we had,” said Moses Jumper, Jr., who remembers Noah as the first one picked for football games, the last one you wanted to pick a fight with. “But he had a gentle, sensitive side, too.”

Noah had two younger brothers; all were named after Biblical figures. Jonah was closest in age, Mark was youngest. Noah had four older sisters: Leoda, Martha, JoAnn and Frances.

See NOAH, page 16

## Bill Miller: Indian Country’s Top Star

By Charles Flowers

**SUNRISE** — Bill Miller has played the Kennedy Center, and the biggest stages in Indian Country. But on this February night he is playing Alligator Alley, a dark and smoky blues bar closer to the Kissimmee Slough than to the Potomac. Fellow Indian musician Chief Jim Billie, elected chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida for the past 20 years, patronizes the Alley. Billie is one digit short of a handful of fingers after losing the ring finger on his right hand to a seven-foot alligator the chief was wrestling for a Canadian television crew. Still, Billie is in high spirits.

Billie slips a rubber finger to anyone he can, playing his recent accident for laughs. And he gets plenty when the faint of heart mistake it for the real thing.

But it’s not just that Jim Billie is a hard act to follow. Miller, 45, is an accomplished musical

artist, the most decorated in the short history of the Native American Music Awards, a poet with words and a flash with his star-embazoned Takemine guitar.

He looks a little out of place, even uncomfortable bantering with drunks at the bar, as he follows the all-Indian Blackhawk Blues Band from Oklahoma. Later, he explains his awkwardness.

“I thought it was a tough room, to be honest,” Miller says from a \$39 motel room somewhere in Southern Illinois. “I’m a recovering alcoholic, so I don’t like playing in bars.”

He played this one during the recent Seminole Tribal Fair and Powwow, with little advance notice. Some devoted fans showed up, along with the Alley’s regulars and others who came from the powwow. Miller stretched his range as an artist by performing two songs with Buddy Big Mountain, the famous puppeteer, and a little wooden powwow dancer on strings.

See DNA, page 15



Bill Miller on stage at Seminoles’ Alligator Alley.

## 4th Annual Time Travel Tour: Destination New Orleans

The 4th Annual Time Travel Tour, “Seminole Diaspora,” will take place on April 4 – 9, 2000. This year’s destination is the city of New Orleans, Louisiana. Sponsored by the Tribe’s Department of Anthropology & Genealogy, the annual event takes Tribal members to sites that are important to their history, and gives participants the opportunity to take part in special events celebrating the unique heritage of the Seminole people.

This year, Tribal members will travel to New Orleans to commemorate the route followed by their

Seminole ancestors who were being forced out of their homelands during the United States’s Wars of Removal in the first half of the 1800s. Prisoners who were captured or gave themselves up to the soldiers in Florida were held at Fort Brooke and sent out of the port of Tampa, across the Gulf of Mexico, and to one of two fortifications below New Orleans: Jackson Barracks or Fort Pike, before they were sent on up the Mississippi River into Indian Territory. Both of these fortifications still exist: Fort Pike as a part of the Louisiana State Office of Parks system, and

Jackson Barracks as the Headquarters of the Louisiana Army National Guard. Special public ceremonies will mark the occasion at each of these military installations. At Jackson Barracks, Tribal officials will exchange greetings and gifts with military and public officials, including the presentation of a Seminole national flag. Tribal chairmen from 13 other federally recognized Tribes in the Southeast and Oklahoma also have been invited to attend the ceremonies. The Seminole pris-

See TOUR, page 4



Editorial

The Good Old Ways

**\*Virginia Mitchell**

I know I'm really giving away my age, which is undoubtedly I secret I'm really, but I was watching my three children the other might as they played in their bedroom – a room so full of toys and games, there is barely enough room left for the bed (the “bed” being a late-model Corvette). As I watched their lightning fast “Gameboy” and “Nintendo” maneuvers, and the agility with which they handled the joystick, I was amazed!

Having grown up in a camp on Trail, the “toys” I had to play with growing up, led me to reflect on the good life and easy childhood I had. I don't remember stressing out about anything, but took the hurdles in life as they were handed to me. There were times when I was cold, nights I couldn't sleep because it was so hot, but there was always food for us to eat and clothes for us to wear. We had blankets to keep us warm when it got cold, and always plenty of water to beat the heat. We didn't have McDonalds and we didn't wear “Air Jordans.” And you know what? We were healthy. I can't really remember any fat kid that took the ribbing that some of the kids today take from their fellow students and even family members.

Even though at the time I hated getting up with the sun, I found the day that waited for me was always full of surprises and things to look forward to. Some days, my brothers would pick up the gig and head out to the bridges to spear the garfish or bass or would bring home foonsh-hutke, which is great over rice with gravy.

Deer meat, turtle soup, fry bread and sofkee were things that still give me a warm fuzzy feeling that depicted “home.” I, as did all of us, had daily chores to do – and we all did them – because we were expected to. There was always an uncle around that would make sure we toed the line. If we didn't, there were always needles for the scratching, and we knew our disobedience and poor attitudes were sure to be dealt with.

When we went somewhere, it was a memorable experience, and usually meant doing something different or seeing family or friends we had not been in contact with for some time. We would usually make a day of it – if not the entire weekend. We enjoyed the trip and we enjoyed each other's company.

While my own kids were playing, I rushed to take them bowling, then to a birthday party, then shopping, then somewhere expensive for lunch (once they all finally agree on what they all want). I wonder if I'm going to have the strength to do all of this today. The phone rings, and as I look at the caller ID, and see the “unknown name-unknown number” and decide to let the answer machine pick it up, I remember I need to “run out to Trail” to pick up some designs for a shirt I promised to make months ago.

Let me just grab my cell phone, put away my lap-top, shut off the DVD players the kids left playing as they moved on to something else, and finally get everyone rounded up and in the truck. Did I lock the doors?

We never used to lock the doors. We didn't have doors. Come to think of it, we didn't have any of this stuff. How did we survive?

Allowing myself to reminisce again, I remember those early mornings – we're talking before daylight – when we would get up and greet the sun and look forward to the day. I have quit telling them to pick up their rooms, put away their toys, and turn off the TV. Heaven forbid I would ask them to wash clothes, do dishes or cook. Most kids look at you like you are from another planet should you dare make such outrageous demands on them. For us, back then, these were survival skills much needed.

Thinking about that now, I'm sure glad that I learned those tasks. Maybe it was the fact that we didn't have all the latest technology nor the financial means that we have today, and maybe some of us look back on those days as hard times, and we sure don't want our kids to have it so “rough.”

Maybe now that we have traveled along that path to self-reliance and we find that we can have almost anything we want, we have good intentions for our children. We want to make sure they will never “want” for anything. They will have everything that we did not have. We will have everything we ever wanted. (Unfortunately, those Tribal members who are sick and are consumed by the addictions of today, will never fulfill their dreams of a good life.)

Other thing s that our children will have that most of us never had are diabetes and poor health. With no exercise and a diet consisting of carbohydrates and fat, we are enabling our children to lead a life ultimately detrimental to their health. How often do they have to walk to school, to the store, to the office, or go for a hike or nature walk? When was the last time they went fishing?

I realize that not all our kids fall into this category, but the numbers are alarming. What has our newfound financial freedom brought us? What comes next? There will always be new gadgets and toys, but what comes next? Many kids are bored stiff with their lives, and very rarely get really excited about anything. Nothing is new and “special” anymore. How many of us still rely on our traditional ways?

Now that I have probably depressed the majority of the readers and maybe even angered some of you, I just have one more question. How many of our kids (and some of you parents) would be able to go back to the old way of life should a disaster occur?

I, for one, know that I have mixed feelings about that idea, and am the first to admit that I enjoy the things I didn't have growing up. But, I will never forget who I am and where I came from and I'll make sure my children grow up knowing what we went through to get to where we are, and hope that they can learn to appreciate – not to take for granted – all they have today.

—Virginia Mitchell is the editor of the Seminole Tribune.



Yaah-to-chet eehgish-toglem

Newspaper Lawsuit

Still On The Griddle

By Charles Flowers

**FORT LAUDERDALE —** Round two of the *Seminole Tribe v. St. Petersburg Times* lawsuit was fought in the ninth floor office of a circuit judge who was a Gator and is proud of it.

Memorabilia of the University of Florida's grid-iron glory – including a marching band outfit and tearsheet from the *Gainesville Sun* proclaiming the Gators “No. 1” — decorates Judge Leonard Fleet's chambers.

Rhetorical question #1: Can the Seminoles get a fair hearing in such an atmosphere?

After more than an hour of questioning, Donald Orlovsky, the West Palm Beach attorney representing the Tribe in the year-old suit arising from questionable practices by two of the *Times'* reporters, was smarting from Judge Fleet's repeated demand for a legal basis for the lawsuit. Less clear was the effect on Alison Steele, the *Times'* counsel who gave her rebuttal in a conference call from St. Petersburg.

“It's a tough case,” Orlovsky said as he left the judge's chambers. “But it's not going to go away.”

Fleet took an armful of motions away from the hearing, and promised to issue a ruling within the next few weeks.

But, judging from the tone of the hearing, and his own words, the judge is most likely to stop short of any final order for the second time. Even if he denies the lawsuit, he said he would not close the door to another amended complaint.

“It would be unfair in a Constitutional case like this not to give you an opportunity to amend,” Judge Fleet told Orlovsky. The judge later added, “This is one of the most interesting cases of the 1,200 before me.”

Because of the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, news gathering organizations like the *Times* enjoy wide latitude in both what and how they report. Even false statements are protected, unless the victim can prove that the paper acted with malice.

But civil law courts are also wide open when it comes to legal discovery, which would be permitted if this Gator-loving judge rules in the Seminoles' favor.

If Fleet sets the case for trial – and that is a huge “if” – Orlovsky and his partner, Michael Kamen, could depose the newspaper's management and the reporters named in the lawsuit, on all manner of issues. They could demand to see financial records, ask why the Seminole Tribe was selected for the kind of spy tactics the newspaper employed, demand to know who authorized the series, and inquire into the editors' motives and methods.

That is clearly not a situation the *Times'* attorneys want to see happen. According to Steele, the newspaper should not be compelled to reveal sources. She claimed they were all named anyway, in an interview with Chairman James E. Billie and Tribal department heads, which Billie granted in October 1997, and was posted on the Tribe's internet website. Billie, who once offered a \$5,000 award for the names of informants, is not satisfied.

A Battle Of Precedents

The suit, which arose from complaints over reporting methods used in gathering information for the *Times'* series on the Tribe called “A Trail of Millions,” has been largely a battle of legal precedents. One case cited by Orlovsky is the 1995 Food Lion suit brought by the grocery chain against Capital Cities and the ABC television net-

work. In that case, a U.S. District Court held that when ABC reporters took jobs as meat-cutters to expose questionable practices on the news, they were outside First Amendment protection, and awarded damages to Food Lion. The decision is

under appeal, according to a Food Lion spokesman.

Central to the Seminoles' case is

proof of damages that were caused by the *Times'* reporting methods. This is something a tight steer at Orlovsky, since he must twist his argument away from the actual results of the investigation to avoid landing the case in the arena of libel or defamation, where the *Times* lawyers can hold up the “freedom of the press” shield. At the Feb. 22 hearing, Fleet considered Orlovsky's amended complaint from last August, which listed 11 ways the Tribe was harmed, and seeking at least \$15,000 in damages.

The Seminole Tribe alleges that two reporters named as defendants in the suit – Bradley Goldstein and Jeff Testerman – broke the law, and encouraged Tribal employees to do the same, in letters and telephone conversations.

“Even reporters have definite boundary lines across which you do not go,” Orlovsky said in an interview. “We have said, ‘There are rules. Play by the rules.’”

Exhibit “A” is a letter from Goldstein, who is now out of journalism and working as a spokesman for the Oxbow Corp. in Palm Beach County.

The letter, on *Times* stationery, asks Patricia Diamond, Chairman Billie's assistant, to aid the reporter in his investigation of the Tribe.

“I understand the position this letter puts you in, but I've only the interest of the tribe at heart,” Goldstein's letter reads, in part. “I'm aware that you may be in possession of certain documents that could help our pursuit of the truth...if copies of those documents were to arrive in an envelope that has no return address on it, the truth will get out and there will be no trace...”

Exhibit “B” is a second letter, also written by Goldstein on *Times* letterhead, to former Tribal dentist Timothy Lozon. It reads, in part:

“Dear Mr. Lozon:  
“I am a reporter for the St. Petersburg *Times*. We've formulated a team which has been working on an indepth look at the Seminole Tribe for the past five months. It's been brought to my attention that you used to work as the dentist for the tribe. We've heard some stories about the indian (sic) health service, your replacement, and the administration of the (Indian Health Service) money on the reservation... You can help us follow the trail of federal money and perhaps explain how someone can be paid to administer the IHS program and be executive director of the tribe at the same time.”

‘How Big A Bite’

“The mistake there,” joked Nova Law School professor Bruce Rogow, who has argued the Tribe's case for sovereignty before the U.S. Supreme Court, “was they went to the Tribal dentist who knows how big a bite James (Billie) has, and he's sure not going to roll over.”

Both letters were turned over to Tribal officials, and used as evidence of the trail left by the newspaper's investigation. In an article in the journalism trade magazine, *Editor & Publisher*, a *Times'* editor admitted that sending the letter to Ms. Diamond was a mistake.

See LAWSUIT, page 3

e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

**Editor:**

I am writing to say you have a beautiful web page collection. I also have a question for you. My great grandmother and her brother were closely associated with the Seminoles at one time. Her name was Minnie Mae Wilson Cram. Her brother was Henry “Tiger tail” “Dutch” Wilson.

I was wondering if you knew either of them. They were good friends with Billy Bowlegs who often visited them at their home. I'd appreciate anything that you may know or anyone who might know anything of these two.

Thank you for your time.  
**Amanda Massey Mixon**  
**Cherrie919@aol.com**

**Editor:**

I contacted you last month about the dates for the Hollywood Festival (Tribal Fair). I would like to thank you for your prompt reply. My family and I were there Saturday from 10:30 a.m. until 9:30 p.m.! We had a great time! I don't know how you folks do it, but it just gets better every year!

Again, my family and I thank you.  
**Mitakuye Oyasin**  
**Native3feathers@webtv.net**

**Chief Billie:**

I recently visited your reservation during the Phish NYE 2000 event I wanted to find a way to show my personal gratitude for your allowing such a large gathering of people to attend. This was my third Phish show — my first trip to the Everglades proving most worthwhile. I have enjoyed learning about your culture as well as others present at the event and I genuinely hope that you have enjoyed it as well. I hope this happens once again - GUYUTE PHISH.

**Jenna Kennen**  
**Drayton, SC 29333**  
**BathubJen@aol.com**

**Dear friends of Seminole Tribe:**

Maybe someone over there may help me with the following issue: some years ago, I acquired a compilation of some Anthropological Papers published

by the Smithsonian Institution's Bureau of American Ethnology, and among those papers, there was one entitled “The Medicine Bundle of the Florida Seminoles and the Green Corn Dance,” *Anthrop. Pap. # 35, Bulletin 151, by Louis Capron, 1950*. Basically, the paper describes the Seminole people, their situation, historical background, religio-mythological universe of references, etc; and then Capron focuses the Ceremony itself, which he observed in loco. I would like to know, as a shamanism researcher (amateur, in the best sense of it), if the Seminole people still run the Green Corn Dance nowadays. I hope not be of any inconvenience to you to ask about this ceremonial. Greetings.

**Rogério Favilla/Jaguarajara**  
**Rofavilla@rj.sol.com.bt**

**Editor:**

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your help with a project we are working on. We are in the process of putting together a collection of Traditional Native Recipes. These will go into a book that will be sold to raise funds to help promote Native arts and events.

We are a nonprofit organization that provides these and other similar services to Native Artists and Indian Tribes at no charge. Individuals and/or organizations that provide recipes will be given full credit and recognition for their submissions in the printed cookbook. native artists are welcome to provide pictures of their art to be included. Historical and other photographs are also welcome.

The recipes will need to fit into one of the following categories; Traditional Native Recipes, Game and Seafood, Outdoor Recipes, and Medicinal plants and herbal remedies.

If there is a recipe that has been passed down through the generations in your family or Tribe, we would be honored if you allow us to include it in the cookbook. Your recipes, questions or comments may be sent to Native America Inc., C/O Mark Farley (President), 1072 Gladiola, CT. NW, Silverdale, WA 98383.

We would like to invite you to visit our Internet Site at: <http://www.nativeamericainc.com>. That

would give you the opportunity to look around and find out more about what we are doing. We will look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely,

**Mark S. Farley**  
**Silverdale, WA**  
**info@nativeamericainc.com**

**Editor:**

I used to work at the Seminole Gaming Palace and I loved the treatment I received. Since I started working there I have been able to meet many of the Tribe. One of my best friends is Pete Aguilar. Even though I do not work there anymore, I still keep in contact with many of my friends. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to work there. Love, your friend forever — Hostess with the Mostests.

**Anita Valdez**  
**Labelle**

**Editor:**

We would like to thank Chief James Billie and the Seminole Tribe for the hospitality we received on our visit to Florida. Everybody was very friendly and informative.

The strength and efficiency of the community is obvious. As well, is their admiration and respect for the Chief. He is more down to earth than most people with less reason to be and never hesitates to take time for anyone, especially his people. In return they all speak highly of him.

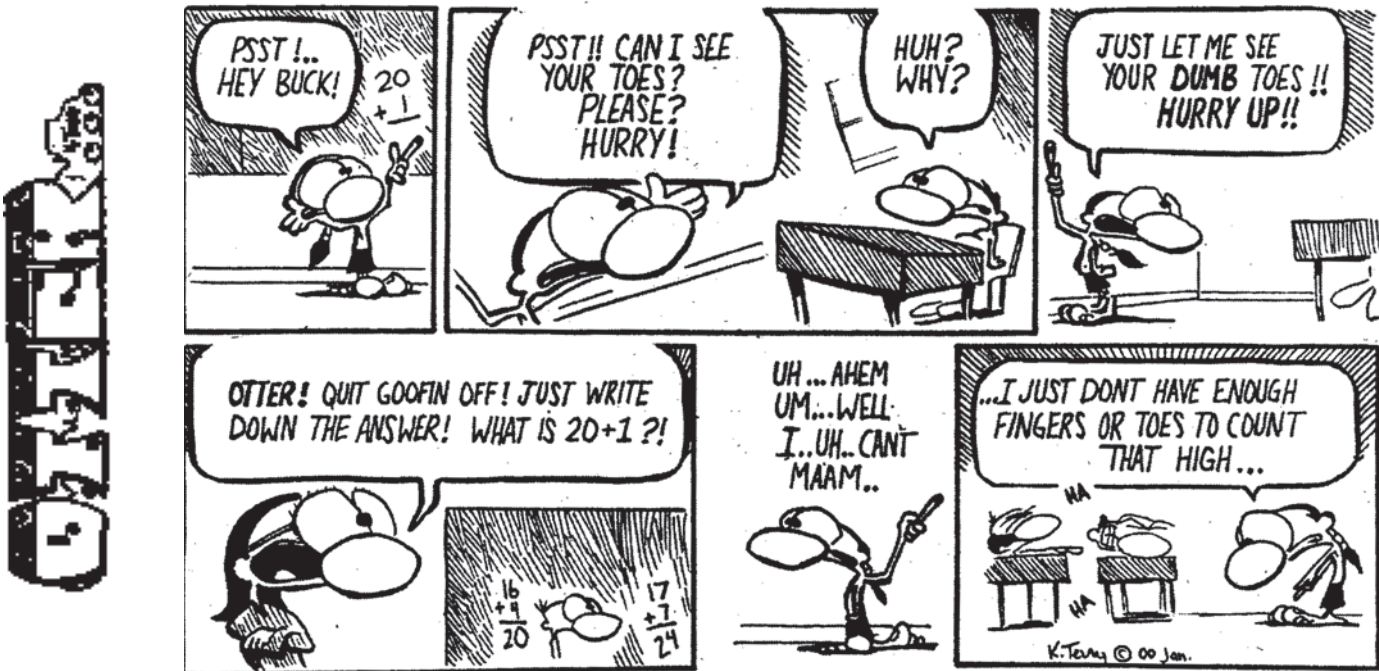
We would also extend extreme gratitude to Peter Gallagher, Raiford Starke, Pat Diamond, Tom Burch, Peter Vedel, Skeet, Danny, Ray, John, Jimmy, and the rest of the crew. We hope to return soon. If you want to see our gators look at [www.gatorfarm.com](http://www.gatorfarm.com) and watch for Gatorfest V (Aug. 5 — 6).

**Jay and Cathi Young,**  
**Paul and Fawn Wertz**  
**cjyoung@fone.com**

**Editor:**

I am writing on behalf of AIRR (American Indian Religious Rights Foundation), in the hopes that you will assist us by providing one of the correctional institutions with relevant information concerning the traditional use of

See EMAIL, page 3



Seminole Tribune

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Seminole Tribe of Florida



# USET

Continued from page 1

entered into an agreement for the payment of state and local sales and excise taxes.

“Despite what some indain tribes say, this is not a matter of sovereign immunity nor of treaty rights,” said Istook on Oct. 12, 1999, before the House Resources Committee. “The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled repeatedly that those are phony claims. The real issues are tax evasion and equal protection under the law.”

“They tell us about the millions and millions of lost revenue,” said Rep. Miller about Istook’s claim, “except when we say, ‘Prove it.’

“They couldn’t come up with the numbers, but still wanted to push the Istook and Weldon-Barr amendments.”

Attacks on sovereign immunity were also present on the area of gaming. Tribes in California are under pressure from Gov. Gray Davis to have labor agreements in place before considering a gaming compact.

“That is a decision to be made by a sovereign government,” said Rep. J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ)

on whether Tribes should be forced to enter into elected bargaining agreements. “That should be your decision.”

Rep. Hayworth introduced Tribal Sovereignty Protection Act, which amends the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) to “protect Indian tribes from coerced labor agreements.”

However, Jacob Coin of the National Indian Gaming Association, stated that “NIGA does not support any amendment to IGRA without a Seminole fix.”

The ‘Seminole fix,’ arose from the State of Florida’s refusal to negotiate in good faith with the Seminole Tribe. The refusal spawned a lawsuit in Federal court challenging the Secretary of the Interior’s authority to negotiate in such cases. That case is still winding its way through the courts.

Rep. Miller replied USET for its attention to attacks upon sovereign immunity. “When the Tribes are put on notice, they have to organize quickly,” said Miller, “because we never find out about amendments until one or two days before they hit the floor.

“I think it’s a badge of honor that you are becoming competitors to people who have had it all to themselves at one time or another.”

# Lawsuit

Continued from page 2

“We should not have sent that letter out and we wouldn’t have authorized him (Goldstein) to do so,” *Times* managing editor Neil Brown told the magazine. (*Times* management has since refused to discuss the case with either the *Seminole Tribune* or the *Palm Beach Post*, which became the first non-partisan Florida newspaper to report on the lawsuit last week.)

Despite the letters, the *Times’* attorneys argued in their motion to dismiss, the suit is “little more than a vehicle for forcing the Defendants from reporting further about the Plaintiff, and for attacking the truth of the articles (in the newspaper’s 1997 series) without having to meet the legal standards for an action for defamation.”

In a telephone interview, Ms. Steele, a partner in the firm Rahdert, Anderson, McGowan & Steele, said the suit has a “split-personality.”

“It is pled as a libel case. But it is intended to be pled as an industrial espionage case,” she said.

Count one of the suit alleges that the *Times* committed what Orlovsky called “tortious interference,” between the Seminole Tribe and its employees. That’s legalese for sportsmanlike conduct. Only the penalty is more than 15 yards.

The judge said the four additional counts – “negligent supervision” by the newspaper, a “civil remedy for criminal practice” as defined by Florida statutes, a request for an “injunction” and “constructive trust” – rely on the proof of the first count. Unless the *Times* so interfered with the Seminole Tribe as to create a “tort,” or cause of action, the other claims have no legal basis.

“If I don’t find that count one is an actionable offense, (counts two through five) are going to fall,” Fleet said.

And here last week, he seemed plainly disinclined to believe that proof for count one had been shown.

Several experts on journalistic ethics and practices have agreed with the *Times’* own managing editor that there are problems with the Goldstein letters. This is a particularly embarrassing problem for the Times Company, which operates the non-profit Poynter Institute in St. Petersburg to encourage the practice of good journalism.

One expert, Steve Geimann, president of the National Society of Professional Journalists, told *Editor & Publisher*: “Urging and suggesting that someone mail, anonymously, documents is an open invitation to play fast and loose with the facts.”

Another, University of Florida journalism professor Kim Walsh-Childers, commenting in the *Palm Beach Post* about “exhibit A,” said: “It seemed a bit coercive, like it was intended to make her (Diamond) feel guilty. They’re basically asking her to do something...that may in fact be illegal, and I think there are serious concerns with a journalist asking someone to do something that is illegal.”

Steele disagreed: “Mr. Goldstein’s letters certainly do not state, ‘Steal things, and give them to me. This is just old-fashioned, time-honored newsgathering.”

And if, as Orlovsky claims, expert witnesses on journalism ethics testify to the contrary?

“You can’t sue somebody for journalism malpractice,” Steele said.

Rogow, who advised the Tribe against suing the *Times* for defamation when the series of articles first appeared, thinks this civil action has a chance.

“It’s very hard to win a defamation case,” Rogow said. “But the claim based on the (Goldstein) letter is a good claim. This is a case where you can establish the bad act of sending the letter, and establish liability, if not damages.”

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# E-mail

Continued from page 2

sweat lodges.

AIRR is acting on behalf of Native American prisoners at Fort Dodge Correctional Center (Iowa), and in particular, on behalf of James Youngbear (FDCC #25489), who asked us to send a formal inquiry regarding the unit’s current policy pertaining to the use of its sweat lodge. At present, prisoners are allowed to use the sweat lodge once per month; however, they are requesting that they be able to use it on a weekly basis, which is the same frequency mainstream religions conduct their ceremonies.

Mr. Youngbear has filed a grievance and subsequent appeal against the institution, as well as federal civil suit against the warden, religious coordinator, and security director at FDCC, which is currently under review by the Attorney General of Iowa.

AIRR’s Chairman, Alex Montana, wrote a formal inquiry to FDCC on Feb. 4, whereby he explained native spiritual traditions and principles, as well as the significance of the Sweat Lodge and the sacredness of the number four. Although AIRR fully appreciates the institution’s security concerns, it knows this practice is fully accommodated elsewhere without any problems. (*i.e.* U.S. federal prisons and Canada). In our view, we received an unsatisfactory response from Ms. Robin Albee, the Religious Coordinator, but have since been contacted by Jerry Burt, the Deputy Warden, who is handling Mr.

Youngbear’s appeal.

One of my concerns regarding Mr. Burt’s response to our Chairman, was the fact that he was about to make judgment on this case, based on information he found on the Internet. I asked whether he knew if these websites were Native American or “new age”, and whether or not he could tell the difference, thus taking into question the validity of such sites. I did point out to him that he is not likely to find many Native Elders or spiritual advisors on the Internet.

Mr. Burt has agreed to delay his ruling on this grievance, in order to allow us to gather/provide additional information and/or documentation that supports our contention that sweats are to be held on a weekly basis in order to be in compliance with generally accepted Native practices. (Of course, this does not take into account the individual’s right to sweat when there is a need.) Due to the urgency of this matter, I am contacting those nations and organizations I was able to locate on the Internet, that have e-mail addresses.

I suggested to Mr. Burt, that both Nations and organizations contact him directly, while sending a copy to me. Mr. Burt can be reached as follows:  
Jerry.Burt@doc.state.ia.us  
Fax: 515-574-4752 (Attention: Jerry Burt)

It may be more effective to fax this information since you can then use official letterhead, and he will know which Nations have responded. I wish to thank you for any assistance you may provide our Brothers at Fort Dodge Correctional Center. Sincerely,  
**Valerie Scott**  
**Fort Dodge, Iowa**

# 10th Annual



# SEMINOLE INDIAN DAY

## SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 2000

### 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.


At the

## Smallwood's Store Museum

## Chokoloskee Island, Florida

You are cordially invited to join us at the 9th Annual Seminole Indian Day at the Smallwood's Store Museum. Come witness reenactments of trading done at this historic site by the Seminole Tribe of Florida, arriving via dug-out canoe. There will be a clothing competition, native foods and crafts. Entertainment will be provided by James Billie, Native Son and friends.

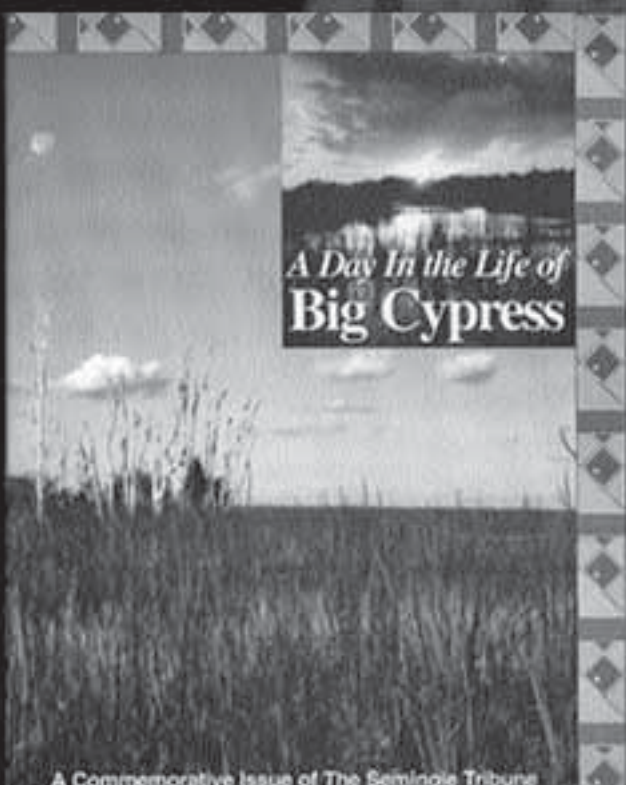
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A Commemorative Issue of The Seminole Tribune



# Teary-Eyed Farewell To Brighton’s Librarian Norman Tribbett

**By Michael James**  
**BRIGHTON** — On Feb. 24 , Tribal officials, department heads and community members gathered at the Josiah Johns restaurant for what was both a cheerful and tearful occasion. Kleenex was even offered for 5 cents a sheet by Maureen Vass who emceed the banquet honoring Norman Tribbett for his time and dedication given to the community over the past 14 years. Brighton Board member Alex Johns spoke a few words thanking Tribbett for what Alex now calls “Alex’s library,” and citing a quote he will always remember from Tribbett ,saying that “readers are leaders.” Health Director Connie Whidden fondly recalled the support she received from Tribbett when she decided to return to college in pursuit of her Master’s degree. And a tearful Michele Thomas, Assistant to the Chairman for the Brighton Community, recalls Norman giving Michele her first job when she was 18 years old and teaching her the valuable qualities of organization and efficiency.

Norman Tribbett, 52, a Potawatomi Tribal member ,came to Florida upon graduating from the University of Wisconsin with his Master’s Degree in Library Science 14 years ago: “I moved to Florida to get away from the cold and saw an ad in the paper for the Seminole Tribe, I was interviewed by Pat Jagiel and Winifred Tiger, and got the job.”

Norman remembers that when he first started with the Tribe, facilities were available to house the libraries but were not being used: “Big Cypress was started first and eventually we moved on to Brighton, Hollywood, Immokalee, and then Tampa.” Tribbett remembers the beginning as being challenging to say the least.

Funding for the library system was not available in the beginning so through the awarding of grants the first library was started. Norman recalls how difficult the grant application process was back then as there were no computers, one mistake and the grant was rejected. The past 14 years have been very

busy for Norman but nevertheless fantastically rewarding. He loves working with children, to help them see their potential and then watch them expand on that potential. Tribbett humbly says, “I do feel like I have been able to influence others, I think I have helped others to realize their qualities and then refine them.” Tribbett says he always looks for the positive qualities in each person.

Tribbett says that he approaches children in a rather unique way, “I treat all children as if they were a part of my family.” I find out where the child’s interests lie, I would then find all the books I could on that topic, and eventually that would lead to a love of reading.”

Indeed Norman has influenced many lives, “I will miss the children and the community. They have all given me so much.”

Norman is settling into retirement well. He is spending time on his computer and is presently working on Jim Thorpe’s genealogy. He has held an interest in genealogy for the past 35 years. Norman’s Tribe, the Potawatomi Tribe, calls on him as well when they are in need of any information. Tribbett says he is also enjoying the shopping from the East coast to the West coast. This year he is planning a formal trip to Alaska and Canada, a trip he has been promising his mother for 20 years and will now be able to fulfill. He is not saying goodbye to libraries and would still like to visit Billy Osceola Library on Friday morning story hour. As a matter of fact, different libraries have already approached him to volunteer. Norman says maybe later, but right now he is enjoying his time off.

When asked who introduced him to the world of books, Tribbett replies, “a teacher . . . I hated reading until I was 13 years old and then she helped me to discover my interests.” It is the same approach Norman followed when working with other children.

“I would like to thank the entire community for the years spent there-especially the parents that have given of themselves to the kids and the community.”



Alex Johns, Michele Thomas, Norman, Jack Smith Jr.

Michael James

## Tour

Continued from page 1

oners will be remembered by the firing of a gun salute, playing of “Taps,” and the posting of the Seminole national colors by the combined Color Guards of the Seminole Veterans’ Association and the Louisiana Army National Guard. Following similar ceremonies at Fort Pike, on Petit Coquilles Island below New Orleans, bronze and marble markers will be placed at both sites in permanent memory of those Seminoles who were forced out of the lands of their forefathers forever.

In addition to the historical events of the 4th Annual Time Travel Tour, participants will have time

for a lot of fun, as well. On the way, the group will stop at Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, Mississippi, and attend a performance of the internationally acclaimed Cirque du Soleil show, “Alegria.” While in the city of New Orleans, the group will be treated to dinner at one of the city’s oldest Cajun restaurants, and spend an evening aboard a Mississippi River paddlewheel steamer, the *Cajun Queen*, dining and dancing to Dixieland jazz.

Any Tribal citizen over the age of 18 is invited to make the trip. Seating is limited so reservations are a “must.” Call Lisa Mullennix at the Tribal headquarters in Hollywood, 954.966.6300, ext. 1423, or sign up at Hot Meals, by March 21st, to reserve your space. It is important to travel on the bus in order to be assured of food, lodging, and entertainment, so call today!

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# Community News

## Lorenzo Guerrero, Minister Of Tourism: 1943-2000

By Vida Volkert & Dan McDonald  
**GRANADA, Nicaragua** — Lorenzo Guerrero More, a close and influential friend of The Seminole Tribe of Florida, was laid to rest Feb. 16.

Guerrero, who rose to become the Minister of Tourism in his native country, had developed a brief but lasting friendship with Tribal leaders. So strong was this bond that a 10 – member delegation – headed by Chairman James E. Billie and his wife Lesley – attended the state funeral in Lorenzo’s home town of Granada, 20 miles south of the capital Managua.

“There was something about Lorenzo that made you feel like you were talking to a friend,” James Billie said of the respected leader whose funeral at the Santa Iglesia Catedral de Granada was attended by thousands, including Nicaragua’s President, Arnoldo Aleman.

“I remember coming to this town to visit with Lorenzo and he was a perfect host. He had us for dinner at his house, and afterwards he took us on a walking tour of the city. He actually showed us the cathedral. I never expected that I would be coming back to this cathedral for his funeral.

“He was a man you instantly could trust. He had a way about him that from the moment you met him, you felt like you were talking to someone you had known for a long time. He was a good man. In fact, when he met Sonny Billie, our holiest man, Sonny took to him as well. Sonny invited him to our Green Corn Dance.

“That’s a great honor. I don’t know why Sonny did that, but it shows that Lorenzo had something special about him. He was a good man and he’ll be missed by many in the Seminole Tribe.”

Guerrero, who was born Oct. 19, 1943, was a victim of lung cancer. He died in Miami, where he had come seeking treatment, on Feb. 10. His body was returned to his native Nicaragua on Feb. 15 and he was buried in Granada’s cemetery the following day within walking distance of the family home he had known since childhood.

The Seminole group also included the chairman’s foreign affairs advisor Calixto Garcia-Velez, Parks Director Jimmie McDonald, security aide Joe Don Billie, operations officer Tim Cox, Dan Wisher, technical advisor, religious leader Sonny Billie and his staff Pat Franceschini and Jeromy and Kay Rockwell. Members of the Guerrero family who lived in Miami were also taken to Nicaragua in the Tribal airplane.

“I know my uncle Lorenzo had a very fond spot in his heart for the Seminole Tribe,” Nicasio Urbina, Associate Professor and Director of the Graduate Studies Department of Spanish and Portuguese at Tulane University said after the funeral. “He said that he felt like he had found friends he could rely on.

“He enjoyed coming to South Florida and visiting with Tribal members. He said he felt the Seminole Tribe had devel-

oped a very good economic base. He appreciated the accomplishments of James Billie and the Tribe. He wanted to do the same things for his own country. The Seminole Tribe inspired him.”

McDaniel explained that Guerrero became a friend of the Tribe after he gave a lecture on tourism for Nicaragua held in Miami last year.

“Lorenzo was a good man and a friend of the Tribe,” said McDaniel, adding that when members of the Tribe traveled to Nicaragua last year, Guerrero received them with open arms and personally escorted them during their visit.

“He wanted the Seminoles to become part of his country because we are the indigenous people of North America,” said McDaniel.

Last year Guerrero visited the Big Cypress Reservation and was invited to participate in the Green Corn Dance ceremony. He also became very impressed with the Tribe’s ecotourism projects and the ways the Tribe maintains its traditions.

James Billie said Guerrero wanted to develop ecotourism in Nicaragua just as the Tribe had done it — in a modern way and without losing traditions and cultural values.

“He was very impressed because even though we are modern in technology concerns, we have been able to keep our traditions and retain our language,” said Billie.

Guerrero, who was an architect and worked for the reconstruction of Nicaragua after the civil war that kept that country divided

between 1970 and 1990, encouraged the modernization of the nation without losing Nicaragua’s cultural values. Even though his own ancestral home was confiscated during the Sandinista revolt, he felt it was important to work with all members of society to rebuild the country.

Some of his works, which include monuments and statues located in strategic points of this honoring, display indigenous causes and heroes. It was his way of honoring the local people who suffered throughout the centuries at the hands of the colonials.

“Lorenzo Guerrero worked throughout his life to preserve the culture, folklore and historical values of Nicaragua,” said his long-time friend Jose Antonio Alvarado, Nicaragua’s Minister of Defense, during the ceremony held in Guerrero’s memory at the Casa del Partido Liberal Constitucionalista.

During his speech, Alvarado explained that although Guerrero was politically involved with the Constitutional Liberal Party of Nicaragua he served as a mediator between the rival parties. It was a role he did with such diplomacy, that members of all Nicaraguan parties mourned his passing.

“My uncle was a man of the people,” said Urbina. “He was someone that everyone liked. And, he liked everyone. He was a unique man who will be missed by all who knew him.”



STATE FUNERAL: Seminoles and family mourned Nicaraguan official.



Chairman sings “Seminole Counting Song” to Nickelodeon sweepstakes winners.

## Nickelodeon Goes Safari - B.C. Style

By Libby Blake  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Nickelodeon Latin America took its cameras to Billie Swamp Safari Feb. 14, for a full day of filming to be broadcast to over 92 million viewers in the North, South, and Central America, Caribbean, and European markets.

The day that Billie Swamp Safari was part of an Adventure Sweepstakes the network held in their Latin America, Caribbean, and Spain markets last year. It was based around their animated television show *The Wild Thornberrys* - the second highest rated kid’s program in the United States.

Over 14,000 entries were received during the six week sweepstakes. Three children were selected from a random drawing. They and three guests of their choice won a seven-day trip to Florida that included the visit to the Billie Swamp Safari on the Big Cypress Reservation, a day at the Dolphin Research Center in the Florida Keys, and three days at Nickelodeon Studios in Orlando. The winners came from Brazil, Costa Rica, and Spain.

“This sweepstakes, like our other yearly contests, the Kids Choice Awards and Director for a Day, fulfills kids fantasies. In this promotion we encouraged children to make (their) family like the Thornberrys,” stated Julia Sobrevilla, Director of Marketing for the Miami-based network.

The animated series is about a family of four - which includes a 12-year-old girl who “talks” to the animals, a neu-

rotic chimp, a wild orphan boy, and a money hungry animal poacher. The family travels all over the world filming documentaries, looking for adventure and exploring strange places where few others have gone.

The Swamp Safari, with its air-boat and swamp buggy eco-tours, panthers, snakes, and alligators, provided a unique adventure for the winners and their families. The television spots filmed with the winners at the Safari will air before the new episodes and recapping of the adventure will continue for two to three weeks more.

“Billie Swamp Safari has become an international tourism destination on the edge of the Everglades and the visit by the families from Spain, Costa Rica, and Brazil will allow them a once in a lifetime experience they’ll never forget,” said Lucy Evanicki, Marketing Director for Billie Swamp Safari.

“The Nickelodeon filming will provide Billie Swamp Safari with extensive coverage to all markets, especially Latin America and Europe. This will work hand in hand with the trade shows and other marketing tools we use to gain more tourism dollars from throughout the world.”

As part of the commitment with Nickelodeon, the network will also feature the Safari in promotional artwork for its channel partners, in monthly newsletters, on the Nickelodeon website, and in a full page ad in the *Rugrats* comics and Nickelodeon magazine in Mexico and Chile.

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# Fort Pierce: Gold Coast City Has Roots In Second Seminole War

*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**

**FORT PIERCE** — Today the coast of Florida is a favorite spot for tourist resorts and snowbirds. But, long before the tourists came, it was from this coast the bold, desperate, and reckless seventeenth century Spaniards drew their main supplies and sought safety.

In fact, it was a Spanish gold fleet returning to Europe that was wrecked by a hurricane in the early 1733 that gave the area its name — Gold Coast.

After the Spanish left Florida, the coast would have other tenant, and it was from one of them that the current city takes its name. The United States Army constructed one of the hundreds of forts used during the wars to subdue the Seminole Indians.

Although most of the forts erected during the Second Seminole War (1837-1842) did not last long because they were made out of wood rather than stone or concrete, some of them were to leave a lasting legacy because of their strategic locations. This is true of Fort Pierce, a community that has grown to become the county seat of St. Lucie County.

DeeDee Roberts, the St. Lucie County Historical Museum's supervisor, said Fort Pierce was erected as part of General Thomas Jesup's winter campaign of 1837-38 against the scattered bands of Seminoles in southern Florida, and remained as the headquarters of the Army of the South until it was abandoned in 1842.

Roberts said the fort was named after Lt. Col. Benjamin Kendrick Pierce, brother of Franklin Pierce, the 14th President of the United States.

Benjamin Pierce, who was born and raised in New Hampshire, enlisted in the United States Army in 1812. During the same year, he was commissioned a first lieutenant and assigned to the Third Artillery Regiment. A year later, the young man was promoted to captain and in 1821, after a series of assignments in Michigan and Virginia, was assigned to Pensacola, Fla., at Fort San Carlos de Barrancas, located in north west Florida.

From Fort San Carlos de Barrancas, Pierce became engaged in the Seminole Wars of Florida and soon was assigned to south Florida.

According to the diary of surgeon Jacob Rhett Motte, who served in Florida between 1836 and 1838, Fort Pierce was erected by Pierce's 1st Artillery during the first days of January 1838.

The fort, which included a palmetto blockhouse, was erected on a high bluff on the west bank of the Indian River, about four miles south of the current Indian River Inlet in St. Lucie County.

Motte wrote that on Dec. 28, 1837, Lt. Levin Powell sailed south on the Indian River to select eligible sites for depots. Powell, who was born in Virginia in 1798, was appointed midshipman in 1817 and lieutenant in 1826. Powell was the commander of a Navy detachment when Motte recorded the Fort Pierce events in his diary.

On the eve of Dec. 29, Colonel Pierce issued orders that the regiment "should be in readiness to embark at two in the morning," wrote Motte.

By daylight, the men were all aboard, and after a quiet and long ride down the river, the men joined Powell at the Indian Inlet on the afternoon of Dec. 31.

Four days later, the blockhouse of palmetto logs was erected and dubbed Fort Pierce after the men's "worthy commander."

"On the morning of the 2nd Janry [January] 1838 we moved over to the west side of Indian river; to a spot four miles south of the Inlet, designated as 'the bluff,' *par excellence*; being the highest point of land on the whole river though only about ten or fifteen feet above water," wrote Motte.

"We there established ourselves; first by pitching our tents on a narrow esplanade between the river and the bluff, which rises perpendicularly behind us; next by erecting a block-house upon the top of the bluff. Being pretty much like all other block-houses in Florida, except that this one was built of Palmetto logs, we deemed it worthy the title of fort, and the distinction of a name; it was therefore dubbed Fort Pierce, after our worthy commander."

DeeDee Roberts said local historians presume the site of Fort Pierce was used as an Indian encampment before the fort was erected.

"An Indian mound was found near where the fort was located," said Roberts. "Although we [local historians] can't determine who made it, we believe they chose this area because there used to be a natural spring nearby."

Motte wrote in his diary that the spot upon which they were encamped bore traces of having not long previous been the site of an Indian camp.

"At a point jutting into the river, a few hundred yards south of us, were still left standing poles and palmetto leaves of some of their lodges," wrote Motte.

"A dense forest, in which the palmetto tree held a conspicuous place, bounded the view immediately in our rear. The formation of the ground adjoining the bluff presented strong indications of its having been thrown up in a regular manner of a fortification; but when, or by whom made, will probably forever remain a secret."

It was reported later in *A Survey of Indian River Archeology, Florida*, by Yale University Publications in Anthropology, Number 44, 58, 59, that two Jesuit missionary priests constructed a small fort on the bluff area during the first half of the eighteenth century.

It is believed that the ancient fortification left at the site of Fort Pierce was constructed by the Jesuit priests Jose Maria Monaco and Jose Javier de Alana.

According to the Yale publication, these two set out from Havana in response to a request for religious instructions from the Tekesta Indians, some of whom had been making periodic trips to Cuba.

The two Jesuit priests and their companions, however, were impressed by the countryside and decided to settle there [the Fort Pierce site]. They constructed a small fort for protection against the local Indians and for defense against attacks by northern Indians.

This fort consisted of "an embankment, ditch, and stockade in the shape of an equilateral triangle 24 feet on a side; it had a bastion in each corner defended by a stone mortar and was so placed that it dominated both the river and the road from the hill to the town. The flag of Spain was raised over it on Aug. 8, 1743," the book reports.

The missionary labors of the Jesuits were cut

short by an order from Havana to abandon the fort. The fort was torn down so that it would be of no value to Indian or white man thereafter.

Roberts said that no artifacts belonging to Indians nor Jesuit priests were found at the site, which has been turned into a recreational park in a residential area. What the archeologists have found in the area are artifacts belonging to the soldiers who were stationed at Fort Pierce during the Seminole Wars. The artifacts are currently on display at the St. Lucie County Historical Museum.

"We found mini balls, belt buckles, pieces of scissors, all kinds of things used by the soldiers," said Roberts.

As to the activities and military operations directed from Fort Pierce, according to Motte, in early 1838, Lt. Powell led the first expedition from the fort to explore the St. Lucie, 20 miles south of Fort Pierce.

Powell had been ordered to proceed on an exploring expedition along the coast and rivers of South Florida, and to cooperate with the Army against the Indians.

At that time, his detachment consisted of about 55 sailors and 25 army regulars. Upon his departure to the wilderness, Fort Pierce would soon acquire a much higher status than the site of a blockhouse.

"On the 14th of January our remote and quiet little post presented quite a scene of bustle occasioned by the arrival of General Jesup and staff," wrote Motte.

The Second Dragoon and 600 volunteers accompanied Jesup from Alabama and Tennessee. With his arrival, Fort Pierce became the headquarters for the Army of the South.

There were several confrontations with the Indians upon Jesup's arrival to Fort Pierce. Motte reported the first major battle occurred on Jan. 15, 1838.

As Powell and his detachment were exploring the head of the Jupiter River, they found a fresh trail near the headwaters of the river, which they followed. Coming upon a large herd of cattle and horses, Powell's men found an Indian woman whom they interrogated and used as a guide to the Indian camp.

After marching five miles, Powell's men found a large beaten trail at the head of a cypress swamp. As they continued their march, they heard the war-whoop before them and immediately opted to charge the Indians.

The Seminoles, however, fiercely repulsed Powell and his men out of the Jupiter area. Powell lost five men and 22 others were seriously wounded. All of them returned to Fort Pierce on the morning of Jan. 16, 1838.

According to Motte, "the cause of the defeat was ascribed to their meeting a larger force than was anticipated; so large as to cover their flanks; their own force amounting to only eighty men. . . and twenty three men having been left with the boats."

The number of Indians was estimated to be from 46 to 80.

Between January 1838 and July 1839, Fort Pierce was merely used as supply depot. Historian Frank Laumer, who is a member of the board of directors of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation, said Fort Pierce as much as the other 400 forts built during the wars, with the exception of the forts used as ports of embarkation, was used to supply the troops in the area.

"It [Fort Pierce] probably was like a police station," said Laumer. "Not much activity happened within the fort, but troops were stationed there and were sent out to the field from there."

On Jan. 27, 1838, Motte recorded in his diary that while on an expedition to the Jupiter area, near the spot where Lt. Powell disembarked at the time of his fight, three miles lower down the creek, and nearer the Jupiter Inlet, the troops received supplies by water from Fort Pierce.

"When out of forage, and but two days' rations remaining on hand, Major Kirby and Lt. Powell fortunately arrived in barges with the 1st Artillery; bringing supplies from Fort Pierce, via the St. Lucie," wrote Motte.

Along with the military use, Fort Pierce also

previously invited the soldiers and military leaders to several of their pow-wows. During those festivities, Indians and military men had drunk whisky and danced together. That is why Jesup's strategy worked: He had won their trust.

Allan King, 59, who has lived in Fort Pierce all his life and has been working at the St. Lucie Historical Museum for 11 years now, said that unfor-

you have brought me back; I am here; I feel the irons in my heart."

The removal of Coacoochee, however, did not put an end to hostilities in Florida. Only in 1842, following the order declaring an end to hostilities in August of the same year, was Fort Pierce was finally abandoned by the military. But, like other forts that had become centers of safety and trade, the settlement outside the fort continued to grow.

DeeDee Roberts, as much as Allan King, believes the fort accidentally caught fire in the summer of 1842 by settlers who had taken over the empty fort. According to the story, the fire began in the fort's kitchen.

"They cooked over an open fire and it would have been easy for the fort to be accidentally burned," said Roberts.

King said that with the Occupational Act passed by Congress in 1843, settlers started populating the Fort Pierce settlement.

"Most of these people would come down from Georgia, encouraged by the new laws," said King. "People started moving down, some for a new start, some for their health," said King, adding that Florida was considered a land of promise.

But Fort Pierce only became a city after its incorporation in 1901. People continued to move in, and by 1923, Fort Pierce was referred to as the largest center of population in St. Lucie County.

According to a Florida history publication printed by the Lewis Publishing Company, in the early 1920s, Fort Pierce was a town of about 3,000 people, with "seven churches, two good schools, more than fifty business houses and industrial plants, various secret and fraternal organizations, a public library, two banks (Fort Pierce Bank and Trust

Company and the St. Lucie County Bank), a newspaper (News-Tribune, founded in 1903), Chamber of Commerce, and, for rest and recreation, a public park, movies, baseball, tennis, swimming pool, year-round surf bathing, boating, fishing, hunting and motoring."

The publication also credited the city of Fort Pierce for having one of the prettiest riverside drives in Florida.

"Fort Pierce is on the sloping banks of the beautiful Indian River, and separated from the Atlantic Ocean by a narrow peninsula. This city is on a tropical vegetation and flowers region. Thirty miles to the north is the Sebastian River and twenty miles to the south is St. Lucie River, the mouth of which is just over the Palm Beach County line."

Today the city of Fort Pierce has about 37,000 people and is located 120 miles north of the city of Miami and 225 miles south of the city of Jacksonville. It is also a city that is once again discovering a strong link to the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

About six years ago, the Tribe purchased 60 acres of undeveloped land in rural Fort Pierce. The land became Federal Trust land – now known as the Fort Pierce Reservation — on Sept. 13, 1997.

Although almost 20 acres of this parcel consists of wetlands, the Tribe plans to develop the land into a community to encourage Tribal members to move in.

Sally Tommie, executive administrative assistant to the president of the Tribe and the Fort Pierce Reservation liaison, said there are about 75 Tribal members currently residing in the city of Fort Pierce.

Most of them are the descendants of Tribal members Sallie Chepcoe and Jack Tommie, Sally Tommie's grandparents and members of the Bird Clan.

According to Sally, her grandparents migrated to Fort Pierce in the early 1900s, when the community had just become a city and developers were encouraging settlers to move in. Sallie Chepcoe and Jack Tommie started a new life together and their children started spreading in the St. Lucie area, said Sally. After Sallie Chepcoe died in 1979, however, her son and granddaughter sold the family's 500-acre property for \$300.

"None of them knew how to read and they simply signed the contract," said Sally, adding that the family was not aware that they were giving up their land. The Tommies ended up moving onto the Brighton Reservation.

Now that the Tribe has purchased this new land in Fort Pierce, the Tommie family would be able to move onto a Seminole Reservation in the Fort Pierce area, completing a cycle of Seminole occupation that predates the Second Seminole War.

The Tribe also has other interests in Fort Pierce. The Tribe's Micco Aircraft Company, which recently won certification to manufacture and sell the SP20 airplane, is housed in a 40,000 square foot plant at the St. Lucie County International Airport just west of Fort Pierce.

"Fort Pierce is a perfect place for us to be," says Micco President F. Dewitt Beckett. "It's a great climate for manufacturing and testing airplanes and we have a huge talent pool because Piper Aircraft Company is nearby."

"But, it's also nice because the Tribe has a historic connection to this area. It's good to see the Seminoles having a place in this community once again."

To get an idea about what the original Fort Pierce looked like, the St. Lucie County Historical Museum, located on 414 Seaway Drive, Fort Pierce, FL 34949, has a downsized replica of the original installation.

According to DeeDee Roberts, the replica, which was built by the Museum Model Makers Club, "is pretty accurate because the architects used the plans from the Library of Congress."

The county park where the fort was originally located is in a residential area on South Indian River Drive, on about the 1000 block, one mile south of the Fort Pierce Courthouse.

For more information about tours to the park and Museum hours, please call the St. Lucie County Historical Museum at (561) 462-1795.

**Next: Fort Jupiter.**



**Lt. Col. Benjamin Pierce, the baby-faced namesake of Fort Pierce.**

tunately the American government was not very honest when dealing with the Indians.

"The government was not good about the treatment of the Seminoles. There was a lot of deceiving and broken promises," he said.

King, who has done extensive research on the history of Fort Pierce, said that it appears this fort was temporarily abandoned in mid-1839 and reopened by Gen. Zachary Taylor, Jesup's successor, in July 1839.

King said by mid 1841 another and perhaps the most important Fort Pierce historical event occurred within the boundaries of this fort.

On May 1, 1841, William Tecumseh Sherman, who gained military fame during the Civil War, was promoted to general while stationed at Fort Pierce. Shortly after, Sherman was sent to escort the Seminole leader Coacoochee into Fort Pierce.

According to John Mahon's *History of the Second Seminole War*, Sherman had persuaded Coacoochee to come into Fort Pierce to talk to the military authorities and get into an agreement of removal.

Mahon wrote that upon Coacoochee's arrival to the fort, a careful Sherman would not dismount to greet the Seminole leader. Instead, he stayed on his horse, suspicious, making sure that all the Indians' guns were taken away.

Coacoochee, for his part, prepared to make a ceremonial entrance into Fort Pierce. He stripped off his clothes, washed himself in a pond, then commenced to put on one shirt after another, and several vests. "One of the vests was marked with blood and a bullet hole," wrote Mahon.

As soon as the Indian leader was ready, the



**Aerial view of replica palmetto log blockhouse of Fort Pierce.**

served, though briefly, as a jailhouse where numerous Seminoles were imprisoned while awaiting removal to the west territory via Saint Augustine.

In March 1838, Jesup used trickery to capture the Indian leaders Tuskegee and Halleck Hadjo with about 500 of their followers, including warriors, women and children. Some of these prisoners were taken to Fort Pierce.

"On the night of the 20th their [Seminoles'] camp was completely surrounded about midnight by our troops," wrote Motte.

"The Indians were too much absorbed with attendant delights of a grand frolic they were enjoying to notice what was going on in the distant darkness; and at daylight when their faculties had become completely obumbrated (sic) by the plentiful libations of whiskey...the order was given to close in upon them, and in this way we succeeded in capturing the entire band, without shedding a drop of blood."

Both Indian chiefs, Tuskegee and Halleck Hadjo, had attended several ceremonial councils at Jesup's camp while negotiating peace between Seminoles and the white men. They had a diplomatic relationship with the military men and were taken by surprise at their camp.

As Motte told in his diary, in an effort to negotiate the peace, Tuskegee and Halleck Hadjo had

procession moved into Fort Pierce. Coacoochee was allowed 30 days to ready his people for migration and during this time, "the Indians freely came and went at Fort Pierce."

Convinced that the Indians had no intention of leaving Florida, the military took Coacoochee and 15 of his men prisoners.

Coacoochee was taken to Tampa and from there he was removed to the Indian Territory of the west. Before he was removed, however, Mahon wrote, "Coacoochee is reported to have spoken these words:

"I was once a boy; then I saw the white man afar off. I hunted in these woods, first with a bow and arrow; then with a rifle. I saw the white man, and was told he was my enemy. I could not shoot him as I would a wolf or a bear; yet like these he came upon me; horses, cattle, and fields, he took from me. He said he was my friend; he abused our women and children, and told us to go from the land. Still he gave me his hand in friendship; we took it; whilst taking it, he had a snake in the other; his tongue was forked; he lied, and stung us. I asked but for a small piece of these lands, enough to plant and live upon, far south, a spot only sufficient upon which I could lay my wife and child. This was not granted me. I was put in prison; I escaped. I have been again taken;



# Gator

Continued from page 1

could be standing in knee-deep water one second and fall in over your head the next if you don't check before you step. Everybody kept an eye open for air bubbles rising to the surface. That could indicate catfish, gar, or a gator moving around below.

As Jay and Paul stood on the far bank sub-



Chief Billie looking for the big one.

merging ropes weighed down with metal gigs, the Chief, chomping a cigar, cautioned them, "Whatever you do, don't have a loop (around) your hand, because he's big enough to take your finger off without getting bit." Perhaps the Chief was being a little self-conscious, for it was only less than two weeks ago that he lost his own right ring finger wrestling an alligator.

Indeed, as he took the stogie out of his mouth to flick the ashes away, he remarked how he kind of missed his ol' "cigar thumper."

The fellows giggled and poled the water for quite a while. If there was a gator down there, it was being very elusive. Finally, they sought more maneuverability in the canal. That's when Joe Don left to bring back his john-boat for some deep-water gator fishing.

It was 1977 when Jay's parents, Erwin and Lynne Young, decided to purchase a geo-thermal well 17 miles north of Alamosa, Colorado in the San Luis Valley. The purpose was to use the 87 degree water for the raising and harvesting of tilapia. Tilapia (also known as St. Peter's fish or Nile perch) is a deliciously edible white fish, also the world's fastest growing aquacultural crop, whose retail sales have surpassed those of trout.

By 1987, tilapia production got so intense the ecologically-minded Youngs had to figure out what to do with all the left over dead fish and filleted remains. Solution: import 100 baby alligators from Florida to feed on the byproducts. Soon the alligators became the attraction. Thus was born Colorado Gators.

In spite of the harsh Colorado winters, the alligators actually thrived in the geothermally heated waters, some of the males reaching 11 feet in length and 500 pounds after only eight years outdoors. Sept. 25, 1997, Colorado's first native alligator was born at Colorado Gators and dubbed Sir Chomps O' Lot.

Over the years Erwin and Lynne's son Jay as well as his wife Cathy have developed quite a warm bond with these cold-blooded creatures. He and his wife recall three particularly sickly ones, all skinny and malnourished, that were dropped off at Colorado Gators by a man from Albuquerque two and a half years ago. One died immediately and the other two, a female named Albuquerque" and a male named "Junior," were force fed through a PVC pipe stuck in their mouths for the next several months. "Do you know how hard it is to force-feed an alligator?" Cathy remarked.

Eventually the two made a full recovery and since then, Junior has grown up to be a healthy, ornery and mean six feet. Albuquerque, on the other hand, grew to five feet

and was not aggressive. As gators go, she was considered "friendly." She was even allowed to be around small children – with her mouth taped shut, of course.

Once the Youngs gave Albuquerque to a friend for a while. When she was returned, she was sick again. She pretty much stayed that way until last October when jumping in the water, her frail constitution couldn't take the sudden temperature change and she died of thermal shock. Jay and Cathy were "really bummed out" over that for good a while. But that's what happens when you get attached to those lovable, cold-blooded critters.

The roar of a small engine made the gator hunters look up. "There's aluminum boats, and there's tin boats," Danny Johns remarked, "that looks like a tin can."

Joe Don shot back, "You don't know how many frogs, how many catfish and how many gators I've got out of that thing."

With Joe Don and Paul Wertz and standing in the john-boat and Danny wading in the shallow parts, the three young men were poling and casting

gigs in that section of canal where *hul-pah-te-cho-bee* was still believed to hiding below. Then Joe Don spotted something at the side of the boat. "Hey there's a big ol' gar down here," he said.

"Ah ha ," said Paul sounding perhaps a little confused as to what Joe Don was so excited about.

"You don't know what you're missing son," said Joe Don to the Colorado gator rancher, "that's some good eatin.'"

They all fished around for a couple hours; it was obvious that wily gator had given them the slip. "Looks like he pulled a Houdini on us," said Danny Johns. "Let's save him for another day."

We looked around for Jay. He was trying his luck some 200 yards "downstream." I finally caught up with him as he emerged from the thick brush that lined that part of the canal. I asked him if he found anything.

Some water moccasins. Some empty Budweiser cans. But no gator.

Reluctantly, they finally decided to call it a day. It was getting near four o' clock in the afternoon, Danny Johns' broken arm was starting to bother him and Jay, Paul and Fawn wanted to get back to Billie Swamp Safari to make the 5 p.m. swamp buggy ride. When we got back to the "Safari," it was barely four. Jay decided to kill the hour waiting time by getting in his rental car and taking a little ride to a swampy area just off a little dirt road where someone had told him some more gators could be spotted.

We got there in a matter of minutes. We immediately spotted a six-foot gator resting on a bank not too far from the road. We started quietly through

the brush to get closer to the gator, Jay armed with a piece of rope in his pocket, and me armed with a ten-dollar camera. The gator sensed us pretty quick, because before we could even get close enough to get



Paul Wertz, Danny Johns poke canal, but their prey stayed hidden.

even a picture, the cagey beast plunged into the water.

We both split up. Jay waded in the marsh, while I stayed on dry land walking the dirt road adjacent to it. As I walked up the tree shaded dirt path, I was taken aback by giant buzzards perched atop the trees just ahead. I looked to my right into the marsh and just across this stream, about 20 or 30 yards away, I saw what looked like another six-footer on the opposite bank facing away from the water. I immediately turned around and ran back and got Jay.

When we came back, the gator was still in the same position as before; facing away from the stream with just the tip of its tail in the water. A powerfully rotten stench filled the air. Buzzards soared above us. This gator was not moving, nor ever likely to be moving. It was dead.

It seemed an odd spot for a gator to be found dead, but then again the only dead gators I had ever seen was either cut up and deep fried or lying belly up in the middle of Snake Road. after being run over by a Jaguar. Jay was disenchanted to find quite a few empty beer containers strewn around the nearby brush. We both tried to come up with a story behind the rotten gator carcass. The "poacher's bullet" theory seemed to prevail.

It was past five when we got back to Billie Swamp Safari. Too late for the swamp buggy ride, almost time for one last storytelling session around the campfire before the long flight back to the coldlands of Colorado.

"Time goes by so fast when you're huntin' alligators," Jay said.



Paul Wertz (foreground) beats the Big Cypress bushes in search of gators.

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SPORTS

EIRA and Junior Profile:  
Trina Bowers

**By Michael James**  
**BRIGHTON** — At just 13 years old, she has been a member of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association for eight years. Trina Bowers, daughter of Marvin and Theresa Bowers, says she started riding calves before it was an event that was considered fun. Trina is a resident of Brighton and attends 8th grade at the Christian Academy in Moore Haven.. She says she started when she was five years old and always remembers really enjoying it. “My mom would put me on a horse and take off to the arena.” At an early age of six years old, the cowgirl won her first buckle. After the first win, she has added ribbons, trophies, more buckles and money to what is now an impressive collection.

Trina credits her success thus far to practicing whenever possible. Presently, she practices every Monday, and trail rides every day for exercise. The family is the owner of four horses, Diamond she favors. Diamond was already trained and they have been a team for a year now. She enjoys taking care of her horses and says that she plans to join high school rodeo next year.

Trina’s faith plays a very important part role in her life. Her grandfather is Wonder Johns, preacher for the First Indian Baptist Church. She said that she prays before each ride and each performance. The teen also enjoys school and says that she likes it because it is a Christian academy and she especially enjoys music.

Trina is likely to do after completing high school. College is definitely in her plans and she says that she would like to be a radiologist.

Also in her plans is to someday be able to compete at the Indian National Rodeo Finals. She was able to go to Scottsdale Ariz.last year to see her Dad ride and thought that was “really cool.”

This young lady’s resume is impressive. In addition to her success in rodeo and academics, she was also crowned Brighton Junior Miss in the fourth



Trina and dad’s horse Honey.

grade, and is the present Brighton Seminole Princess. She was judged on talent and poise.

During the competition, when asked to address an issue important to her, Trina spoke about teen pregnancy. She says, “There are too many teenagers that have the wrong guidance about pregnancy. Bad idea, you mess with fire and you get burned.” In the talent portion of the contest she sang “Hallelujah,” and won. Part of her responsibilities as Princess will be to ride in parades, participate in local festivals and the Tribal Fair.

Trina was a treasure for this reporter to chat with. With everything in place, she will be exciting to follow over the next few years.

She would like to thank her mom for “putting me in barrel racing and staying on my tail.”

“I’d also like to thank my dad for always being there.” “And one more, thanks Linda Truppe for the horse.”

Sister Act Hits Rodeo Circuit

**By B. Secody**  
What could be more exciting than family? That’s easy - you could have two. That is sure the case in the Bell Osceola family, with sisters Shelby Osceola and Shelby both very active members of the Florida Junior Rodeo Association.

Theyanna, 9, is in her first year of rodeoing and is making her mark as a barrel racer, at times scoring in the low 20s. She proudly states she has her own horse and competes in the goat tie and pole bending categories as well.

For a newcomer, she has the agility, speed and control of a seasoned rider and displays plenty of self-confidence in her abilities. Theyanna states her sister Shelby has been her mentor and has been her biggest influence in the sport.

Shelby wants to be a horse trainer when she gets a little older, and plans to make a career of working with horses. For now though, she is in the third grade at Driftwood Elementary in Hollywood, and does well in school. As the old cliché goes, “Dynamite comes in small packages.” This young cowgirl is that, and more.

Shelby Osceola has been at the sport of



Shelby and Theyanna Osceola: mentoring starts young.

rodeoing since she was 3. Now, at 11, she has chalked up five buckles for her efforts in barrel racing. She competes in all events and has been one-time EIRA Champion.

Shelby owns two horses, one for barrel racing only. She, like her sister also competes in the goat tie and pole bending. At the most recent competition held in Plant City, Shelby presented her “breakaway” debut. This was her first attempt and she did a great job.

Her efforts in the barrel racing competition netted her an impressive score of 19.481 during Sunday’s event. Shelby takes her riding very seriously and tries to make each run count. Like her younger sister, Shelby attends Driftwood Elementary School. She is in the fifth grade and also does well in her studies. She shares the love of animals with her sister, and states she wants to be a veterinarian some day. When asked who has had the most influence on her life and whom she most admires, she smiled and said, “My Mom.”

Theyanna and Shelby are the daughters of Bill and Tabatha Osceola of the Hollywood Reservation.



Theyanna cuts close on barrel race.

Shelby DeHass Carries On Family Rodeo Tradition

**By B. Secody**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Just like her mom, Debbie, Shelby DeHass, 8, has been riding horses since she could walk. And just like her mom, Shelby has been making a name for herself in the Florida Junior Rodeo Association.

Shelby started competing two years ago, and has already won two buckles for her barrel racing efforts. She proudly states one of them even has sapphires. She recently took first place in the competition in Clewiston, and scores well in most all of her attempts.

Shelby, who is in the third grade at Driftwood Elementary in Hollywood, says she would like to be a secretary when she is older. She already exhibits self-esteem and has confidence in herself and her endeavors.

Shelby receives a great deal of support from her family. Her mom works with her on her riding abilities, and her Uncle David DeHass, a former bullrider himself, encourages her to be the best she can be in the sport.

Shelby says she tries hard in school and knows it is important to get a good education to be



Shelby DeHass took first place at Clewiston.

successful later in life. The FJRA requires that members maintain an acceptable grade point average to be eligible for competition in rodeo events.

Shelby says her family is proud of her accomplishments and she intends to continue competing in rodeos, but one thing is for certain — she will no doubt always share the love of horses that her mother, uncle and her late grandmother have passed down to her.

EIRA Junior Rodeo

**By B. Secody**  
**PLANT CITY** — With the Brighton Field Day Rodeo going on at the same time as the Florida Junior Rodeo Association’s (FJRA) weekend competition in Plant City, some of the troupe managed to attend both events. David DeHass, Director of Youth Events for the FJRA, traveled with the participants to Brighton, where they competed in the Friday night rodeo.

DeHass then gathered up his crew and headed to Plant City for a two-day competition at Ellis Arena. However, to the disappointment of several young riders, they were not permitted to participate. The FJRA has stringent criteria for the youth to remain active participants. They must maintain a 1.8 grade point average and report cards must be shown to compete.

“With rushing around, trying to get to where they had to be when they had to be there, I neglected to pick them up before we left for Brighton. This was not the kids’ fault,” stated DeHass.

After unsuccessful negotiations with rodeo brass, DeHass headed back to Hollywood to pick up the report cards. Although disappointed, the youth were very professional in their actions and behavior, and waited patiently until the next day to show their stuff.

Sunday’s lineup included the Osceola sisters, Shelby and Theyanna, Shadow Billie, Roy Stuart, Wilson Bowers, Clinton Holt, Stephen Billie, Jade Braswell and Nick Jumper. Each participant gave their all and did a great job in categories such as barrel racing, bull-riding, the goat tie, pole bending and breakaway. Miss Shelby Osceola, currently the only Seminole member of the FJRA to participate in breakaway, did a great job for her first try on Sunday. Her dad Bill was there to encourage her and commend her for her efforts as he did for both his daughters in each category throughout the day.

Future competition dates to mark on the calendar are March 18 and 19 in Moore Haven, April 15 and 16 at Bundle, finals in Okeechobee on April 28 and 29.

The Finals Awards Banquet will be held April 30 in Okeechobee.



ALONG FOR THE RIDE: Paul and Linda Bowers.



UNDER THE HAT: Clinton Holt

PRCA Rodeo Results

**BRIGHTON** — The following are the results of the PRCA Rodeo held during the Brighton Field Days Feb. 19 – 20, as reported by Five Star Rodeo Company.

**Bareback Riding** — Denny McLanahan, 80, \$2545.20, Aaron E. Hudson, 79, \$1951.30, Jason Wyulie, 78, \$1442.40, Jack Sims, 74, \$933.50, Paul R. Applegarth, 73, \$594.60, Phil Smith, 72, \$424.70, Ron C. Leger, 71, \$339.80 (tie) Doug Fennell, 70, \$127.90, Robert C. Bowers, 70, \$127.

**Bull Riding** — First round: Myron Duarte, 84, \$2372.20, Adam Wood, 82, \$1818.30, Stu Sellars, 78, \$1344.4, (tie) Chris B. Dillard, 77, \$711.50 (tie) Trevor Walker, 77, \$711.60, Casey Baize, 76, \$395.70 (tie) Chris Littlejohn, 73, \$277.80 (tie) Jeff Rupert, 73, \$277.

**Calf Roping** — Cody Ohl, 7.7, \$2765.20, Ty Hayes, 7.9, \$2474.30 (tie) Shawn Franklin, 8.0, \$1746.40 (tie) Tony Reina, 8.0, \$1746.50 (tie) Justin Maass, 8.0, \$1746.60 (tie) Casey Butaud, 8.0, \$1746.70 (tie) Jimmy Hodge, 8.1, \$873.80 (tie) D.R.

Daniel, 8.1, \$873.90 (tie) Glenn Breaux, 8.4, \$146.10 (tie) Cash Myers, 8.4, \$146.11 (tie) Dean Byars, 8.4, \$146.12 (tie) Chad Johnson, 8.4, \$146.

**Saddle Bronc Riding** — (Tie) Tom Reeves, 77, 2, (tie) Jess Martin, 77 3, (tie) Rance Bray, 72 4, Ryan Mapston, 72 5, Justen Washburn, 71 6, (Tie) Steve Dollarhide, 70 7, (Tie) Ira Slagowsky, 70 8, (Tie) J.T. Hitch, 68 9, (Tie) Charles Soileau, 68.

**Steer Wrestling** — Tommy Cook, 3.8, Teddy Johnson, 3.9, Alan Oehlert, 4.0, Todd Boggust, 4.1, Stephen Canik, 4.2, 6, (Tie) B. J. Zieffle, 4.3, (tie) Leon Garrett, 4.3\*, (tie) Wade Steffen, 4.3 (tie) Joey Bell Jr, 4.3, John Vickers, 4.5, (tie) Randy Suhm, 4.5, (tie) Jerrod Pillans, 4.5, Bryan Young, 4.5.

**Team Roping** — Josh McMillan and Jason Hill, 6.0, Jimmy Tanner and Brad Culpepper, 6.1, Jay Presti and Brian Hawk, 6.2, Steve Duhon and Isaac Duhon 6.4, Tom Bourne and Chad Spillers, 6.9, Jason Sasser and Ryan Martin, 6.9, Billy Adams and Joe Baker, 7.4, Shawn Stephens and Ted William Voorhees, 7.4.

EIRA Brighton Field Days Rodeo Results

**By Michael James**  
**BRIGHTON** — It was another action packed evening at the Fred Smith Arena when the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association held its Brighton Field Days Rodeo Feb. 19.

Fans were pleased when Josh Jumper recovered after having a horse roll over him during team roping, and Robert Youngblood recovered from a rough bull blood.

The following are the results:

**Bareback Riding** — Shawn Best, 70, 10 points, Hank Winnier, 59, 9 points, Adam Turtle, 51, 8 points.

**Steer Wrestling** — Sydney “Doc” Gore, 58, 10 points, Howard Edmundson, 61, 9 points, Josh Jumper, 66, 8 points, Naha Jumper, 8.5, 7 points.

**Men’s Calf Roping** — Corbin Warren, 9.8 seconds, 10 points, Marty Johns, 12.2 seconds, 9 points, Howard Edmundson, 12.9 seconds, 8 points, Josh Jumper, 13.3 seconds, 7 points.

**Saddle**



Shawn Best took first place in bull and bareback riding.

**Team Roping** — Howard Edmundson and Brandon Wright, 7.7 seconds, 10 points, Marty Johns and Shawn John, 9.4 seconds, 9 points, Marvin Bowers and Naha Jumper, 13.3 seconds, 8 points, Hank Winnier and Robert Simpson, 16.7, 7 points.

**Bull Riding** — Shawn Best, 68, 10 points, Austin Billie, 71, 9 points. **Women’s Break Away Roping** — Billie Tiger, 19.0, 10 points. **Women’s Barrel Racing** — Tess Ducheneaux, 15.48, 10 points, Emma Johns, 16.11, 9 points, Jo Leigh Johns, 16.11, 8 points, Holly Johns, 16.40, 7 points.

**Mutton Busting** — Tyler Tigertail, 20.67, Jamie Gonzales, 16.51, Destiny Nunez, 8.74, Alley Nunez, 8.60, Alley Nunez, 8.55. **Calf Roping** — Joshua Johns, 5.76, Nick Jumper, 3.68, Randel Osceola, 3.20, Ethan Gopher, 2.79 seconds. **Junior Bull Riding** — Steven Billie, 69, Clinton Holt, 64, Jarred Smith, 63.

**Beginners Barrel Racing** — April Billie, 19.21, Morningstar Webster, 19.82, Nauthkee Henry, 20.93. **Novice Barrels** — Mackenzie Johns, 17.50, “Mad” Mary Huff, 17.65, Ayze Henry, 21.90.



Sydney Gore led all steer wrestlers.

**Bronc Riding** — Jay Louis, 72, 10 points, Shawn Best, 64, 9 points, Robert Youngblood, 56, 8 points.



Billie Tiger won break away roping.



Corbin Warren took first place in calf roping.



# Sharks Box Out Princeton For Regional Championship

**HOLLYWOOD** — The echoes of rumbling feet on wooden bleachers and the sound of supportive screams set the mood for the Girls Regional Basketball Championship at Sheridan Hills Christian School. The Sheridan Sharks and Princeton Christian Lady Basketball Team battled it out on the court for the opportunity to advance in the playoffs.

The Sharks, who got off to a slow start, trailed Princeton for most of the first half. Princeton used their height advantage to keep the Sharks from striking until the middle of the second quarter. Sharks Coach Eric Spee pulled in the slack, converting from zone defense to man — to — man coverage in a successful effort to box out the Princeton Ladies for the remainder of the quarter.

By the third quarter, the Spee’s defensive change had cut down Princeton’s advantage, enabling the Sharks to utilize their quick speed and skills to put points on the board against a frustrated Princeton team.

At the start of the fourth quarter, the Sharks were still trailing, but were determined not to go back to a silent locker room. The score volleyed back and



Parents and fans go wild as Mercedes shoots the ball.

forth as both teams dropped crowd rousing shots until time was called by Princeton with a 1:50 left in the game.

When the game resumed, Princeton led by two points. Mercedes Osceola netted a three point shot to put the Sharks backed in the lead. Princeton answered with a basket with 15 seconds left in the game. A supportive Shark crowd screamed to their team in desperation as the clock ticked away.

The Sharks, in possession after the Princeton score, got the ball to Mercedes. “Five, four, three,” the crowd yells. “Shoot!” Mercedes averts the ball in what seems like an almost never-ending fall from the ceiling. The crowd watches in awe as the ball falls through the net giving the Sharks the win and sending the Princeton Ladies home for the season.

Final score: Sharks 35 - Princeton 34.



(L-R) Jo-Jo Osceola, Mercedes, Tasha.

# Bill Osceola Memorial Rodeo

By Michael James

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Bill Osceola Rodeo, Feb. 11, marked the second rodeo of the EIRA season and the richest rodeo of the Mississippi.

Prize money totaling \$32,000 was awarded as well as buckles and horse trailers to determined cowgirls and cowboys. To begin the rodeo, President of the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, Willie Johns, circled the arena with the riderless horse in honor of the fallen cowboy David Morgan. According to Johns many of the young riders owe their future to Morgan.

“He helped a lot of young cowboys get their start,” Johns said. “He would invite them to his house when there wasn’t any stock for them to practice on and let them ride as long as they wanted to.”

Morgan passed away the day before the first rodeo of the season, January 28. He resided in Wauchula. “He was loved,” says Johns. “He will be missed.”

Also, a cowgirl was injured. MacKenzie Johns, daughter of Eastern Indian Rodeo Association Vice President, Marty Johns, was in the beginning of her race when her horse raised up and fell directly on her injuring her leg. The paramedics transported her to the hospital for observation, where she was released with bruises.

During intermission the “One Arm Bandit” from Oklahoma, Amanda Payne was on hand to perform her show. Following her performance, Moses Jumper, Jr. presented buckles to President Mitchell Cypress, Council Representative Max Osceola and Board Representative Carl Baxley. He graciously thanked each of them for all the tremendous help they have given to the association through the years.

Here are the results:

**Bare back Riding** - Shawn Best, 69, 10 points. Alex Johns, 66, 9 points. Michael Henry, 54, 8 points. **Steer Wrestling** - Robbie Chalfant, 7.2 seconds, 10 points. Corbin Warren, 8 seconds, 9 points. Brandon Wright, 8.6 seconds, 8 points. Sydney Gore, 11.5 seconds, 7 points.

**Men’s Calf Roping** - Corbin Warren, 11.3, 10 points. Brandon Wright, 13 seconds, 9 points. Howard Edmundson, 15 seconds, 8 points. Marty Johns, 15.3 seconds, 7 points.

**Women’s break Away Roping** - Billie Tiger, 3.8, 10 points. **Saddle Bronc Riding** - Shawn Best, 72, 10 points. Robert Simpson, 64, 9 points. Travis Nanaeto, 57, 8 points. **Team Roping** - Moses and Happy Jumper, 8.8 seconds, 10 points. Josh and Naha, 18.3 seconds, 9 points. Howard Edmundson and Brandon Wright, 21.9, 8 points. Billie Joe Johns and Robbie Chalfant, 31.7, 7 points.

**Women’s Barrel Racing** - Clarissa Bowers, 16.4, 10 points. Jo Leigh Johns, 16.53, 9 points. Lisa Osceola, 16.62, 8 points. Emma Johns, 17.07, 7 points.

**Bull Riding** - Hank Winier, 78, 10 points. Shawn Best, 74, 9 points. Tied for third: Adam Turtle and Travis Nanaeto, 72, 7.5 points.

**Special Events/Mutton Busting** - Gavin Willie, \$308. Jonathan Roberts, \$231. Kane Bettelyoun, \$154. Jamie Gonzales, \$77. **Calf Riding** - Roy Stewart. Josh Johns. Thomas Gore. Jasper Thomas. **Beginners Barrels** - Morningstar Webster. Nauthkee Henry. Ravenne Osceola. Sheyanna Osceola. **Junior Bulls** - Steven Billie, \$402. Clinton Holt. Jarred Smith. **Novice Barrels** - Kari Kroepelin. Reba Osceola. Azyze Henry. **50 and Over Break Away** - Moses Jumper.

# Seminoles Play 8-Ball Showdown

By Libby Blake

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, TX** — The “Seminoles” pool team from Okeechobee recently traveled to Texas to compete in the 1st Annual U.S. Classic Billiards 8 – Ball Showdown held at the South Padre Island Convention Center. Team members participating in the race to double elimination singles tournament included Big Cypress Council Representative David Cypress, Recreation Director George Grasshopper, Tony Carter, Joe Chandler, and Corey Penrod.

One-hundred-seventy-nine players (including three women) vied for the top prize of \$17,500. First place and the money went to Rene Rendon from Texas. Corey finished in 28th place winning \$175. Joe Chandler placed 41st bringing home \$122. Other team players failed to place in the top 64 money spots.

The tournament was open to amateurs only and was played under Billiard Congress of America (BCA) rules allow a player to scratch or foul when shooting the eight ball without loss of game so long as the eight ball remains on the table. This is the only known league allowing this practice.

“I’ve never heard of anyplace that lets you scratch on the eight ball and not lose,” said George Grasshopper.

U.S. Classics Billiards held the event to promote a new eight-foot solid L.E.A.N.I. Italian slate pool table they are producing. The tables retail for about \$1,700 and are available at select Sam’s Club stores. The “Seminoles” and several of the other participants in the tourney found the tables to be



George Grasshopper ponders next shot.

lacking.

“One shot the table runs fast and the next it will run slow. You never know how the balls are going to roll,” said Corey Penrod. Tony Carter added “The height of the rails to the table is shorter than normal so rail shots run a lot different. And the tables have an awful lot of dips and grooves to supposedly be solid slate.” Numerous other players were overheard making similar comments.

There were also grumblings heard about the payouts. The tournament was advertised with 1,000+ entries and a top prize of \$100,000. The 179 actual players and \$17,500 top prize fell way short of the promoter’s expectations. As a gesture of goodwill, the promoters extended a 10 percent lifetime discount for all future tourneys to the participants in this inaugural event.

# Brighton Pool Tourney Results



George Grasshopper

By Libby Blake

**BRIGHTON** — The 3rd Annual Brighton Field Day Pool Tournament was held Friday Feb. 18 in the gym. The double elimination 8 - ball tournament was open to all Tribal members and their spouses.

Besides the \$10 entry fee for each player an additional \$3,000 was added to the prize fund by Jack Smith Jr., Brighton Council Representative, Brighton Recreation, Big Cypress Recreation, and Sweat Trucking of Brighton and Okeechobee.

Twenty-two men and 11 women competed in the tournament, which was divided by age brackets of 18 to 39 years and 40 years and older. Winners and prize money won were as follows:

**Men (18-39)**

**1st** - David Nunez (\$350), **2nd** - Larry Smith (\$250), **3rd** - Dallas Nunez (\$150) **4th** - Elrod Bowers (\$120), **5th** - Joey Micco (\$100), **6th** - Jack Billie (\$70), **7th** - Bronson Hill (\$50).

**Men (40 & up)**

**1st** - George Grasshopper (\$350), **2nd** - David Bowers (\$250), **3rd** - Russell Osceola (\$150), **4th** - Albert Snow (\$120), **5th** - David Cypress (\$100), **6th** - Buddy Sweat (\$70), **7th** - Shane Buck (\$50).

**Women (18-39)**

**1st** - Anita Nunez (\$200), **2nd** - Carlene Osceola (\$150), **3rd** - Reina Micco (\$100), **4th** - Deanna Nunez (\$75), **5th** - Myra Jumper (\$50).

**Women (40 & up)**

**1st** - Alice Sweat (\$200), **2nd** - Linda Billie (\$150), **3rd** - Juanita Osceola (\$100), **4th** - Debbie Carter (\$75), **5th** - Dale Grasshopper (\$50), **6th** - Mary Jo Micco (\$50 donated by George Grasshopper).

## Pool Tourney Results

Scotch Doubles

**1st** Corey Penrod/Charlene Haynes  
**2nd** David Cypress/Carlene Osceola  
**3rd** George Grasshopper/ Theresa Boremei  
**5th** Terry/Jerry  
**6th** David Billie/Maria Billie

9 Ball Men

**1st** Jerry  
**2nd** Willie  
**3rd** Corey Penrod  
**4th** David Cypress  
**5th** Randy Clay

9 Ball Women

**1st** Terry  
**2nd** Kathy Breland  
**3rd** Charlene Haynes  
**4th** Dale Grasshopper  
**5th** Theresa Boremei

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# Tampa Youth Pass Karate Test

By Lilla & Debbie Henry

**TAMPA** — On May 24, 1999 18 tribal member youths from the Tampa Reservation joined Kim’s Karate in Brandon. On July 14, five of these youths tested for their first belts and successfully passed.

They are Clayton Simmons, Sierra Simmons, Matthew Henry, Joseph Santiago, and Joshua Smith. On Aug. 2, the other 13 youths tested for their first stripe and passed. They are Stacey Smith, Tiffany Foret, Joel Foret, Devin Doctor, Jacob Santiago, Phaydra Clark, Alana Henry, Linda Henry, Dylanie Henry, Jamie Henry, Reese Doctor, Chisa Sisneroz, and Amanda Sisneroz.

The test consisted of forms, self-defense and basic Karate movements that they had learned to pass this test. To complete the test they had to break a board. They are currently working on their next belt: the purple belt with one stripe. We are very proud of our youth and hope they continue to stick with it.



Stacey Smith, Joel Foret, Master Shim, Reese Doctor and Jacob Santiago earn their stripes.

# Senior Bowling Tournament Results

By Libby Blake

**DAVIE** — Council Representatives Max Osceola Jr., David Cypress, and Jack Smith Jr. sponsored an All Indian Senior Bowling Tournament in conjunction with the Tribal Fair and Pow-Wow on Feb. 11 at Don Carter’s University Bowl.

Thirty-five bowlers, men and women age 50

and up, competed in a three game set that included regular, 3-6-9, and no-tap. Eugene and Mary T. Bowers served as tournament directors for the event.

Sam Nelson scored a 297 in the no-tap round to cinch the top male spot in the 50 – 59 year old competition. Other results were as follows:

**Women Age 50 – 59**

Alma Johns – 590, Maydell Osceola – 553, Mary T. Bowers – 549, Ruby Osceola – 500, Juanita Osceola – 490, Mary F. Johns – 456, Cornelia Osceola – 442, Marie Osceola – 441, Lawanna Niles – 381.

**Men Age 50 – 59**

Sam Nelson – 696, Eugene Bowers – 660, Moses Osceola – 635, Ronnie Doctor – 588, David Jumper – 527, Sammie Gopher – 525, Leroy King – 504, Joe Billie – 495, Billy Cypress – 494, Billy Micco – 439.

**Women Age 60 & up**

Geneva Shore – 477, Lottie Coody – 474, Addie Osceola – 463, Leah Minnick – 462, Betty Osceola – 450, Rosie Billie – 443, Annie Jumper – 423, Mary L. Johns – 396, Agnes Bert – 358.

**Men Age 60 & up**

Archie Johns – 522, Jimmie H. Osceola – 504, Wonder John – 501, Tiny Harrell – 493, George Billie – 403, Jimmy Smith – 402.



Geneva Shore, Lottie Coody



# Kennedy, Bloom Visit Tribal Fair

**HOLLYWOOD** — Congressman Patrick Kennedy (D-RI) and Florida State Representative Elaine Bloom paid a visit to the Tribal Fair on Feb. 13 to garner support for Bloom's upcoming election.

Bloom, who represents the Miami Beach-Dade County area, is running against Republican Congressman Clay Shaw for the 22nd District seat. Congressman Kennedy is the Chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee and a founding member of the Congressional Native American Caucus.

Escorted by Tribal Counsel Jim Shore and Agnes Motlow, Kennedy and Bloom met Chairman James Billie, spoke to the PRCA rodeo fans, watched a special alligator wrestling performance by Thomas Storm Jr., and sampled the cuisine served up by band member Vincent Micco.



**FAIR VISIT:** Max Osceola, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, State Representative Elaine Bloom and Lee Tiger.

# Social Security Issues Addressed

**By Libby Blake**

**HOLLYWOOD** — Since Native Americans have one of the highest life expectancy rates, Social Security is of great importance to them. To that end an open forum focus group was held Feb. 17 in the Tribal office auditorium with social workers from the Family Services Department and representatives from the Social Security Administration providing answers to questions about the service.

Terry Sweat, Family Services Program Director, arranged the meeting in an effort to address issues and problem areas met by his employees when trying to obtain social security benefits for Tribal members.

Myrtle S. Haversham, Regional Commissioner for the Social Security Administration's (SSA) Atlanta Region, Jose Lustra, SSA Area Manager for South Florida, and other SSA area managers were on hand to discuss possible solutions for the issues addressed.

"I like to have these open forum focus groups so when issues do come up we can put a face with a name and that helps personalize it," stated Haversham. "We are working to make SSA more accessible and to reach all eligible people."

After introductions were made the meeting turned to issues encountered when trying to obtain benefits. According to Sweat, the number one problem is disability claims and the high denial rate. Andrea Serrano, Operations Officer for the Hollywood SSA office and a former disability examiner, said the main reason for denial is lack of documentation with the application.

Pat Franceschini, Administrative Secretary for the Seminole Agency Bureau of Indian Affairs, discussed the problems her office has in documenting birth dates for elder Tribal members to meet the SSA requirements.

Debby Hamilton, medical social worker for the Big Cypress Reservation, brought up the issue of language barriers.

The following was suggested as possible solutions for the issues addressed:

- Establish a closer relationship by means of a comprehensive seminar to better inform the social workers of what is available through SSA



**Atlanta area regional commissioner Myrtle Haversham discusses Social Security issues.**

and the information needed for application.

- Production of a public service announcement with an interpreter to air on the Tribal TV station.
- Ongoing liaison at each local SSA office to work specifically with the Family Services Department.
- Development of general fact sheets in Creek and Miccosukee.

Priscilla Sayen, Secretary Treasurer for the Tribe, gave the visiting officials a tour of the Tribal offices and presented Haversham with a Seminole basket to commemorate the visit and to give the SSA a better understanding of the Seminole Tribe of Florida.



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**Generations Are  
Counting On This.  
Don't Leave It Blank.**



Tribal Employee Fights Trailer Fire

Dog Bites Mo In Mo Haven

*"There we were in our nighties . . . phones were melted to the walls!"*

**By Colin Kenny**  
**MOORE HAVEN** — When Tribal employee and good citizen Maureen "Mo" Vass decided to report a trailer fire on the outskirts of Moore Haven, she got one ambulance with one fire extinguisher, two police cars, fire ants and a dog that bit her for her trouble.

Vass, who has worked for the Seminole Tribe since 1979, along with fellow Tribal employees Maria Rodriguez and Jennifer Keefe were returning to Hollywood from a luncheon in Brighton at around 2 p.m., Feb. 24. They had just turned off of Rt. 78, heading south on Rt. 27, just north of Moore Haven, when they noticed smoke coming from a group of trailer homes just off the highway. Vass immediately thought of an 86-year-old friend of hers that lived in that neighborhood. "I hope it's not his house," she said.

It turned out to be somebody else's trailer. She said she saw smoke coming from the top of the double-wide, from the eaves or attic. Vass immediately dialed 911 on her Seminole Tribe issued cell-phone, and reported the fire. She ran to the house and felt the windows and doors and realized how hot it was inside. She knew not to open doors for fear of the explosive back-draft. Fearful that occupants may be trapped inside, Vass looked around for a garden hose to start dousing the fire herself, but to no avail.

It was in the late 1960s when Mo was a student at a college with a turbulent past known as Kent State. Vass was made Fire Chief of her dormitory. She therefore was required to take a course in handling fire emergencies. She recounted one incident when a disgruntled student-teacher who happened to be a pyromaniac, set fire to the dormitory. Vass took charge and led all 400 girls to safety. She described the aftermath, "There we were, in our nighties . . . phones were melted to the walls"

Vass started banging on door of the trailer to the left to warn the neighbors of the possible spreading blaze and to find out if the occupants of the burning trailer were home or not. There was nobody home on the left. She banged on the door to the home on the right when "a black dog . . . one of Heinz's 57 varieties," she said "came from underneath the trailer," and bit her on the right arm. "I went into a submissive mode," Vass said, explaining how she prevented the mongrel from doing any further injury.

A woman answered the door. "Your next door neighbor's trailer's on fire . . . your dog just bit me," Vass told the woman.

The woman was "devastated and apologetic" about the dog, according to Vass. "He was just protecting his property," Vass said about the dog. To add insult to injury, Vass found out she was "standing in the middle of red ants," being eaten alive.

The neighbor assured Vass that her dog did have a rabies shot and that there was no one home in the burning trailer. Vass said she noticed that the metal siding of the burning trailer was starting to melt. She also noticed a lot of dry brush in the yard. "I told that lady to hose down that brush just in case. Being a city girl, you automatically think that somebody has a hose someplace."

According to Vass, an ambulance was the first emergency vehicle to arrive on the scene. Vass



Maureen "Mo" Vass shows dog bitten-arm.

said the driver pulled out a little fire extinguisher, "Think we could put it out with this?" he said  
Shortly thereafter two Glades County Sheriff's Dept. police cruisers pulled up. Vass said the officers " never asked us our names . . . did we see the fire start? . . . Never asked us a blessed thing."

Vass said that she and her co-workers were at the scene for a total of 15 to 20 minutes, and no fire truck ever showed. When they left the scene and drove south on 27 towards Hollywood, there was no sign of any fire trucks coming out of Moore Haven on their way to the burning trailer.

According to Capt. Kenneth Holley of the Glades County Sheriff's Dept., the call for the fire initially came in at 2:07 p.m.. Fire trucks were en route at 2:16 p.m., arriving at the scene at 2:16 p.m., completely extinguishing the fire by 5:44 p.m. There were no persons or bodies found in the house. In responding to Vass' account of events, Capt. Holley commented, " A minute seems like an hour," referring to the perception of time when one is waiting for help in an emergency situation.

Native Americans Needed  
For Bone Marrow Drive  
At Eckerd Powwow

**NORMAN, Okla.** — The Native American Marrow Recruitment Project of Norman, Oklahoma, (an Indian owned and managed organization) will be conducting a volunteer minority bone marrow drive at the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Discover Native America Powwow and American Indian Festival, March 4 and 5 on the Eckerd College Campus. For additional information about the drive you may contact Rowena Yeahquo, Norman, Oklahoma @ (405) 364-5398 or Nancy Motlow (941) 657-3563.

A black and white photograph of Myrna Loy, a woman with dark hair, wearing a dark top and a necklace. She is holding a pair of handcuffs in her hands.

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# A Moment In Time With Josephine Villa

**By Michael James**  
**BRIGHTON** — Josephine Huff Villa was born in Fort Pierce 54 years ago to parents Frank Huff Sr. and Mary Osceola. Like so many other residents, she came to Brighton in her youth and grew up there.

She and her four brothers, one sister, and their parents made their home in a chickee across from where Vicki’s drive through stands today. Her memory is colored with favorite stories and recollections of the quiet life she spent in the company of her family.

“I have a lot of memories about dad and cattle,” said Josephine about her youth in Brighton.

“I liked riding horses. I guess that was my favorite pastime,” she said.

During warm weather the children would help augment the family income by ‘diving for water turtles,’ a process by which the kids would enter the water and poke around with bare feet until they located their quarry. Once captured, their father would process the turtles and sell the meat.

At home, Josephine said she learned how to cook and sew from her mother.

“She didn’t tell me, she showed me,” said Josephine. ‘Showing,’ as it turned out, would become a defining element in a cause and effect show-down that continues to influence Josephine’s life to this day.

As the pace of life changed for the family, Frank Sr. took a job working for Lykes Brothers. Mary kept the home fires burning, and with it a proprietary pot of swamp cabbage bubbled next to a pan full of fry bread. Determined to be the one who taught her children the Seminole ways, Mary only occasionally sought work in nearby tomato fields after the children got older.

For Josephine, life went on in a predictable way. She went to school, graduated from Moore Haven High School and then went to work. For three years she worked as a teacher’s aide at the Moore Haven school. She left that job for an opportunity to work for the Tribe in education, which she did for four years. After a seven-year hitch working in childcare at Brighton she eventually settled into a job as a human services outreach caseworker for the health department at Brighton. Along the way, around her 28th birthday, she was diagnosed with diabetes.

“I didn’t want to be checked because I knew it was something that would never go away,” said Josephine. When the diagnosis came she dealt with it the best she could. In the six years that followed, Josephine managed her disease with oral medications.

“Then a doctor put me on insulin. After that, another doctor told me that I didn’t need insulin and he put me back on oral medications,” she said. With crystal clear hindsight, Josephine looks back to that troubling time when she didn’t have enough knowledge regarding diabetes to ask the right questions.

“I wasn’t educated enough and we didn’t have doctors with enough concern,” she said. At that time, blood glucose levels were only being checked once a month. Josephine lived in a shadow world between sound knowledge and complacency that was fueled by what she was hearing from many sources.

“I did some bad things,” she said. “I would go to town and see people eating what they wanted. I did that too because I wasn’t always thinking.”

She never really felt bad and she managed to get things under control one more time. In microscopic silence however a quiet killer was waging war on every system in her body and right on schedule, 26 years later, the silence ended for Josephine.

“In June (1999) my blood pressure went up and I got real sick,” she said, adding she still didn’t really understand what they were telling her.



Josephine Villa learned hard lessons about diabetes.

Unable to stand the years of diabetic onslaught, her kidneys told the grim story plainly however.

“They put me on medicine to help save my kidney function,” said Josephine who, despite the medication continued to swell with a body overloaded with fluid. By December, her health declined to a desperate level and her daughter took her to a hospital in West Palm Beach where she underwent near constant dialysis for five days.

While in the hospital she underwent painful surgery in which doctors implanted a synthetic graft in her arm to join artery to vein in order to facilitate the life sustaining dialysis she would have to undergo for the rest of her life.

“The doctors didn’t think I was going to live,” said Josephine. Ironically, Josephine’s brother Stanley was in a different hospital at the same time for complications of diabetes. Sadly, Stanley didn’t come home. He died from congestive heart failure related to complications of diabetes.

Josephine endured dialysis through a tube inserted into her chest for two months while the graft in her arm healed. Today, she receives dialysis three times a week via the graft in her arm. Every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday she begins her day at the dialysis clinic at 6:45 a.m.

On each of those mornings, two large bore needles are painfully placed in her arm and for four hours her blood is circulated through a machine that does the work of her kidneys.

“It’s painful. It’s just awful. If they have to pull too much water I just come home and go to bed until the next day,” says Josephine about the aftermath of the process. And she is scared. Not for herself, but for all of the people who might be harboring the misconception that dialysis is some sort of alternative to good diabetes management.

Hardly an alternative, dialysis is a last resort and should be avoided at all costs according to Josephine. Dialysis is a complicated and vexing ordeal. It is much more complicated than checking your blood glucose level each day, taking your medicine, exercising, and eating right — all of which, when combined, are the most powerful medicine going when it comes to avoiding the complications of diabetes.

If kidneys do fail, life becomes an endless cycle of measuring, calculating, and recording everything that goes in, everything that is left on the excruciating dialysis diet list, that is.

“I get 32 ounces of fluid a day, and they consider bread fluid too,” says Josephine who is also restricted in nearly everything from protein to sodium, to potassium and calcium.

“If I eat a fry bread I won’t eat anything else for the rest of the day,” she says. “You trade one for the other.”

For Josephine, her salvation in the hospital was God’s way of telling her that she has a mission to accomplish.

“I wish someone would have shown me,” she said. This single wish may ultimately be the salvation of many like her because, if you remember, her mother “showed” her. She didn’t tell her. If hands on, in the face learning about diabetes is what it is going to take to help people overcome fears and myths, Josephine wants to help.

“I don’t want anyone else in the community to go through this,” she says. “I want everyone to know that knowledge and personal responsibility are the first step in staying healthy.”

She also said that knowledge helps keep the doctors on their toes, “especially when you learn to ask the right questions.”

If you would like to talk to Josephine, you can contact her through the Brighton Health Educators office.

Michael James

# Alaska Natives Shift Subsistence Fight To Washington D.C.

**ANCHORAGE** — Alaska Natives frustrated by 30 years of state inaction denying them their federally protected subsistence rights announced that they will shift their efforts to secure permanent subsistence protections from Congress and federal officials. The decision came after hours of debate at a special convention called by the Alaska Federation of Natives in response to Gov. Tony Knowles’ recent appeal of the *Katie John* decision.

A successful appeal of the Katie John decision would render the federal protections for rural subsistence fishing unenforceable, and for Alaska Native communities across the state, a successful appeal means the end of traditional subsistence village life.

“We have worked in good faith with the state for thirty years, but the Governor’s appeal of *Katie John* represents a significant threat and assault on our way of life,” said AFN President Julie Kitka at a press briefing after the daylong convention. “Our people want some permanence, and they are ready to forge a new political course, to urge Congress to reassert its authority to protect subsistence.”

The move represents a significant shift from earlier efforts by Alaska Natives to work with the State to pass a constitutional amendment that would allow a public vote on the contentious subsistence issue. A resolution passed by the convention specifically asserts that the group will “actively oppose adoption of any constitutional amendment unless it is assured that the State of Alaska will strictly comply with ANILCA and court decisions that have favorably construed Alaska Native subsistence,” among other conditions.

Delegates also direct AFN’s President to explore potential “economic sanctions that will advance Alaska Native subsistence.” Other specific initiatives adopted through resolution include:

- A request that the Governor withdraw his appeal of the Katie John decision and begin developing new state plans to provide for management of subsistence fishing that includes tribes
- A directive, to AFN’s leadership to use all available political, economic, and legal resources to oppose and defeat the State’s appeal of the *Katie John* decision
- A request that Congress implement a major restructuring of the relationship between the Alaska Native people, including the reclassification of ANCSA lands to Indian Country and the development of a Native and rural priority in the management of federal lands and waterways, among other statutory and regulatory remedies

The Alaska Federation of Natives also pledged to continue the ongoing efforts to secure national and international media attention and to generate support from national and international civil rights, indigenous human rights, environmental, minority communities, faith and tribal organizations.

Meanwhile, AFN has begun to receive support from federal officials involved in subsistence management issues. Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt sent a strongly-worded letter to AFN yesterday stating, “I assure you in the strongest possible terms that I am committed to supporting the subsistence priority’s application to all federal reserved waters in the State ... and it is my intention to continue to support Katie John and the subsistence priority for all reserved waters in the State of Alaska.” A similar letter supportive of subsistence hunting and fishing was sent by U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno’s office will carry significant weight before the U.S. Supreme Court.

# Census 2000 Recruitment

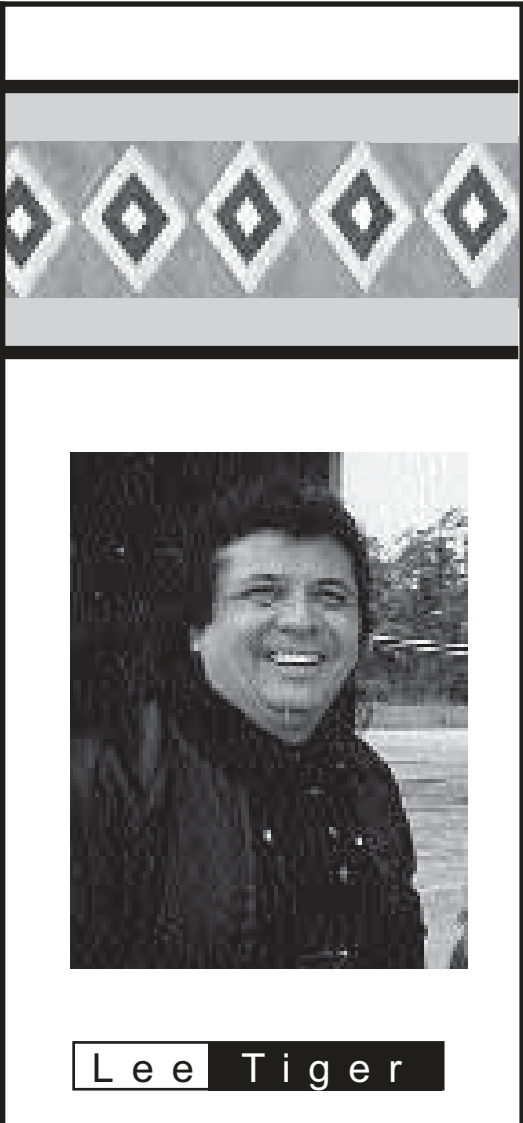
1/4 pg

Hi, I'm Lee Tiger with the Florida Department of Transportation's Native American Outreach Program. I'd like to thank all the tribal members that participated in this past year workshops.

To those who would like to attend one, we will continue FDOT workshops in the year 2000. One of the more asked questions in getting DBE Certified was "Do we need to have a Florida Corporation?" The answer is no, you can apply for a registration with a fictitious name. We have these one-page forms and can help you fill them out.

So if you or a family member are interested in pursuing contracts with the state of Florida's largest contracting agency. Call me at the Department of Transportation at (954) 370-3900. We will be happy to answer any questions and add you to our current mailing list to keep you informed on upcoming workshops.

If you have any questions regarding the Florida Department of Transportation Native American Outreach, please call (954) 370-3900.



American Indian Outreach





# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday



**Happy 1st Birthday Eric Jaden Puente** our wonderful son on March 5. May your dreams and wishes come true. Love always, **Mom, Dad, Avalon and Eric Puente.**

**Happy 1st Birthday** to my baby **“J.”** Love **Aunt Kenni Coby.**

**Jazmine Essence Billie, Happy 1st Birthday** Baby! Daddy loves you so much, forever in my heart you shall remain.

**Happy 1st Birthday to Deila Harjo,** have fun and eat lots of free grub! Love, **Daddy**  
Daddy loves the both of you!

**Happy Birthday** wishes going out to **Jesse Mitchell, Happy 5th Birthday** Baby! Love Always, **Valerie.**

**Happy Birthday, Leroy!**  
You came into my heart many years ago and since that day have always been a part of it! Always remember, I love you and wherever life may take us, my feelings for you will never change!  
You told me once before that I was different from others you have known and I can say the same about you. None have made me as happy and as loved as you have! So, again I say, Happy Birthday and I will always love you! **Love you always, ?????**

To **“Grandma Star,”** we missed you on your **birthday.** Hope you had a good one. We love you lots, **The Otter Gang – Dom, Marlon, Letitia, Meloookmehche & John Rhodes.**

**Happy Belated Birthday** to my **Aunt Star.** Hope you had a great time. Love, **Cheyanna.**

**Happy Birthday Dalton Bert and Jaden Puente** on March 5th. I love y’all, **Grandma Agnes.**

## Birth



**New Arrival: David & Kristin Stivers** of Cordova, Tenn., had a baby, **Victoria Gabrielle Stivers,** Born Jan. 26, 2000. She was 6 lbs. 10 oz., 20 inches long. Grandmother is **Peggy Fewell Stivers.**

## Jobs

Position: Survey Party Chief Location: Water Resource Management (Big Cypress) Opening: Jan. 27, 00 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$14.03 per hour plus benefits	Position: Staff Nutritionist Location: Health Dept. (Brighton) Opening: Feb. 2, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$30,000/Yearly (Negotiable) plus benefits	Position: Dental Assistant Location: Health (Hollywood) Opening: Feb. 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$10.00 per hour plus benefits Position: Community Health Representative Location: Health (Brighton) Opening: Feb. 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$9.00 per hour plus benefits	Opening: January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: Based on salary schedule	Position: Assistant Cook (Brighton) Location: Preschool Program Opening: February 9, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$8.29 Per hour plus benifits
Position: Maintenance Worker Location: Building and Grounds – (Brighton) Opening: Feb 24, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$6.50 per hour plus benefits	Position: Operator Maintenance Location: Utilities – (Hollywood) Opening: Feb. 23, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$8.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Assistant Cook/Janitor Location: Nutrition (Hot Meals – Hollywood) Opening: January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$8.73 per hour plus benefits	Position: Reading Specialist Location: Ahfachkee School – Big Cypress Opening: February 22, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: Based on Instructional Salary Scale	
Position: Cashier Location: Tribal Smoke Shop (Coconut Creek) Opening: February 23, 2000 Closing: March 8, 2000 Salary: \$5.52 per hour plus benefits	Position: Dental Assistant Location: Health/Dental (Brighton) Opening: Feb. 15, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$10.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Assistant Education Counselor Location: Education (Big Cypress) Opening: January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.18 per hour plus benefits	Position: Transporter Location: Health (Big Cypress) Opening: January 11, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.90 Per Hour Plus Benefits	
Position: Tour Guide Location: Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Opening: Feb. 15, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$7.00 per hour plus benefits	Position: Certified Behavioral Analyst (LaBelle) Location: Health (Big Cypress) Opening: January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$25,000 – 35,000 annually	Position: Direct Care Aides (5 needed) Location: Health Department (Big Cypress) Opening: January 25, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$10.00 – 15.00 per hour full time	Position: Benefits Coordinator Location: Personnel Department (Hollywood) Opening: February 22, 2000 Closing: Until Filled Salary: \$28,000 Annually Plus Benefits	

## Congratulations

### Camile Coppedge Finishes Training

Camille A. Coppedge graduated from Great Lakes Naval Training Center. She is now an Airman Apprentice. Her parents are Gene and Cheryl Coppedge. She also has a brother, Gabriel, and two sisters, Amy and Nicole, who attended the graduation ceremony.  
Camille shipped out on Jan. 26, on the USS George Washington. She is stationed at Norfolk, VA.  
The Coppedge family resides on the Gila River Pima Reservation near Coolidge, Ariz.



## Students Of The Month



Calvin Tiger Jr.



Aaron Cypress

**HOLLYWOOD** — Aaron Cypress of Baudhuin Oral School and Calvin Tiger, Jr. of Gloria Dei Lutheran School were both honored as Student of the Month by their respective schools and the Town of Davie, Florida on Jan. 26.

Aaron and Calvin won the recognition because of outstanding behavior and their drive to achieve excellence in academics. We congratulate these young men for their efforts and success. — **June Degnan: Education Counselor/Hollywood**

## Poems

### Feelings

*My world shall not return my word. What I speak will return to me. It shall do that which I send it to do. My command must be obeyed. The words cannot stop and ask questions.*  
*Therefore, I am careful about the words I speak, what I am thinking as well as how I feel. I also monitor my actions and reactions, because it is my response that is important. I am the only one who can hurt me. No one else can unless I allow them. I speak words of love, joy, peace, wealth, health and “forgiveness” so I can be assured of experiencing good stuff. I watch and pray, making sure that I want to receive what I am sending forth, for surely it will return unto me in due season.*  
*It is my responsibility to be all that God created me to be. I am responsible for whatever is going on in my life, world, and affairs. The good news is that I can change whatever I don’t like. “let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight O’Lord my strength, and my redeemer” Psalms 19:14*  
*But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death. Proverbs 8:36*  
— **Submitted by Danielle R. Bankston**

### Caloosa Dawn

*Caloosa dawn, a mist, ancient Florida braves.  
From jungled shores perceive Spanish ships upon the waves.  
Lo, drawing near to disembark:  
Spanish Conquistadors, armoured horse and foot.  
’Tis here, apparently, where gold-seeking conquerors have yet to look.  
But then see the great Caloosa, from warm paradise attack,  
To harrow the invader and compel him to turn back.  
Thus, arrow opposes arquebus, in furious battle sound  
Then sail away, Ponce De Leon, for him a Caloosa arrow found.  
— **Elgin Jumper, 1999.***

### Mad Love

*I’ll never forget my dogs – never will I.  
A promise I’ll keep ‘til the day I die.  
A tear drop by the eye.  
A scar from our fight,  
Tattoos of ruff times we went through in “our” life  
Now that you’re chillin’ with the Man above,  
don’t mean I don’t have the same mad love  
in concerts me and you pushed and we shared at the crib  
you borrowed CD’s – telling me  
“Hook you with a dub,” mad love from deep in the chest  
you’re the one who knew me best.  
You called me on sh-t when things were sour  
We spent everyday joking ‘bout power  
What if I had this and you had that?  
Life would be straight; yo’ pockets would be fat.  
Picture that Rez Rats, I had your back.  
I’m sorry me and you never made it to the top –  
But still I’ll keep it real – this mad love won’t stop.  
— **Markell Billie 2000***

## Notices

**9th Annual Conference on Wellness and Women** – March 19-22 in San Diego, Calif. And the second in Portland, Ore., May 8 – 11. Early registration is \$200 per person and group discounts. This year’s theme is “Leading Our Youth with Gentle Footsteps.” For brochure or information contact OU’s Health Promotion Programs at 405-325-1790 or visit the program’s web site at [www.hpp.ou.edu](http://www.hpp.ou.edu).

**The Bitterroot Valley Good Nations Pow Wow,** July 21-23, in Hamilton, MT. For further information, contact Becky @ (406) 363-5383 or e-mail to [dunranch@cybernet1.com](mailto:dunranch@cybernet1.com).

**Honor The Ancestors Pow Wow,** Cassidy Park, Willis Avenue, Bogalusa, LA., March 10 - 12. The event features Intertribal Dancing, and All Tribes, Tribal Staffs and/or Flags Welcome. All Princesses and Drums welcome. For More Information contact Michelle Pounds (504) 732-3484.

## Deadlines

### Seminole Tribune

March 24 • March 10  
March 31 • April 14  
April 21 • May 5



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# Miller

Continued from page 1

"I've always loved Buddy's work, and I thought it would be cool to play with one of his puppets," Miller says. "So I mentioned it to him, and he said, 'I've got one outside in my trunk.' It was a highlight for me to play *Raven in the Snow* with Buddy and his puppet."

Also a high moment for the Alligator Alley crowd, who saw the collaboration for the first time. (In honor of Big Mountain, they dropped cash on the stage.) But Miller, who headlines two days of Indian musical talent at Discover Native America in St. Petersburg this weekend, has also had his share of lows.

Born of a Mohican father and German mother, he was raised on the Stockbridge-Munsee Reservation in Wisconsin. "My father was a Korean War veteran who was messed up most of his life," Miller recalls. "He was a Green Beret point man with medals he threw into Lake Winnebago. He was an alcoholic, like so many of our people. But he was also an artist. He would paint for drinks. It's painful to see someone get torn by disillusion. But it's always amazing to see how art can come out of that pain."

Because of that experience, Miller says, he feels a special empathy for the late Seminole artist Noah Billie. He plans to play an "honor song" at the painter's first major exhibition at the St. Petersburg History Museum this Friday.

"I'm going to play a flute piece, and maybe a traditional piece," Miller says. "Or I may compose something new on the spot. But I want to honor him."

Miller now lives with his wife and five children in Nashville, where he records for Vanguard. He won five (Native American Music Association) Nammy Awards in Albuquerque, N.M. last November, including Artist of the Year, Best Male Artist, Best Folk Artist, Songwriter and Song of the Year (for *Ghost Dance*).

"That's probably the greatest thing that ever

happened in my life," Miller says from the road. He is following one of the "Blue Highways," made famous by Indian writer William Least Heat Moon to a performance in St. Louis. "I didn't expect to win one award, and I won five."

The honors confirmed what other, more commercially successful non-Indian musicians had known about Miller for some time: that he is a major talent capable of transcending stereotypes. When U-2's Bono heard Miller's "Red Road" album for the first time, he reportedly wept. Two months later, pop singer Tori Amos booked Miller as the opening act for her Under the Pink tour. He has also played with Eddie Vedder and Pearl Jam at an Apache Indian benefit in Mesa, Ariz.

"I'm anything but a commercial artist," Miller says. "I get air play underground, but I'm not a pop name. Still, it's nice to be identified by them, to get to their level. Once Tori was asked what kind of music I play. She called it 'visionary rock.' I thought that was nice. But I coined the term 'altered Native.' If she's alternative, that's what I am — a Native who's been altered."

Miller has high hopes for Native artists — altered or not — in the new millennium.

"It reminds me of a cocoon," he says of Indian music. "First you see the webs in the trees, then you can see the chrysalis. We've metamorphosed into a beautiful thing... I really feel strongly that we're going to be embraced by World music. We've not really a part of New Age. We're not a bunch of tree-hugging hippies. We're the blood in this country's veins, the red in the flag. And we have songs."

For his part, he's going to sing them loud and clear — and sober.

"I saw seven aunts and six uncles die of alcoholism, besides my father," Miller says. "It's awful to watch. So while I might like to have a Mexican dinner with you, with a couple of cold Coronas, I won't. I have made a definite decision to stop drinking, and it has made my witness to the youth that much stronger. You're putting yourself up for some bad medicine when you say one thing and do another."



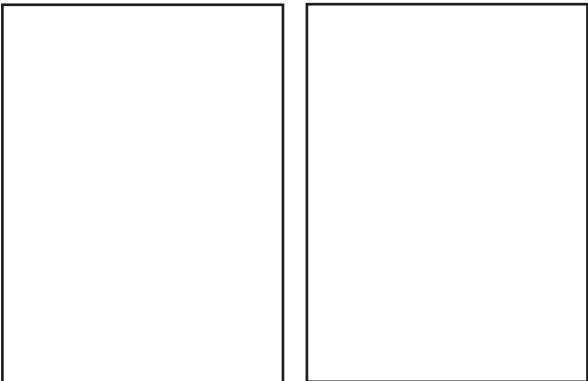
Bill Miller is known for haunting ballads.

## Discover Native America 2000

Main Stage Saturday March 4	
10 a.m.	Gates Open
10:30	Robert Tree Cody
11:15	Aztec Fire Dancers
Noon	TBA
1 p.m.	Paula Bowers
2 p.m.	Robert Tree Cody
2:45	Ulali
4 p.m.	Chief Jim Billie
5:30 p.m.	Bill Miller

Sunday March 5	
10:30	Robert Tree Cody
11 a.m.	Aztec Fire Dancers
Noon	Seminole Clothing
*Contest	
1 p.m.	Paula Bowers
2 p.m.	Robert Tree Cody
2:45	Chief Jim Billie
4:15	Bill Miller
5:45	Ulali
6:15	Aztec Fire Dancers

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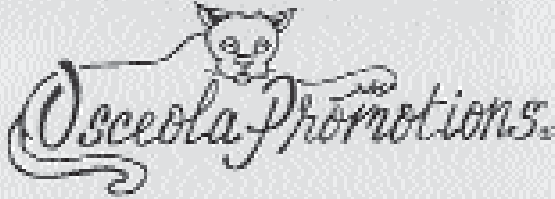
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Saturday 9:00am to 9:00pm  
Sunday 9:00am to 4:00pm

### Guest Performers

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The Plainsmen Host Drum & Dance Group  
Joseph Z ~ Native Flutist  
BooBooAnne ~ Native Storyteller  
Aztec Fire Dancers from Mexico City  
Alligator Demonstration

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**Native American Arts & Crafts**  
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# POW-WOW

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Chair of Native American Search Committee  
College of Nursing  
University of South Florida  
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Contact person for submitting application materials is Karen Giddings at (813) 974-9163 or [kgidding@hsc.usf.edu](mailto:kgidding@hsc.usf.edu).

USF is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action/Equal Access Institution. For ADA contact Karen Giddings, (813) 974-9163, at least five working days in advance. The State of Florida has a Public Meetings Law and a Public Records Law and all university searches are conducted under the terms thereof. All meetings of the search committee are publicly announced and conducted. All documents submitted to the committee are treated as open material with the exception of evaluative documents specific to the performance of the faculty of the State University System of Florida concerning health or disabilities.



# Noah

Continued from page 1

Mark remembers Noah as the ideal big brother: ready to stick up for him without even being asked. But never abusive or bullying.

Noah left McArthur for Chilocco Indian School in Oklahoma. After graduating in 1966, he enlisted in the Marines. Noah was a Seminole man of the Vietnam War generation. That means that he, like others who came to manhood in the late-1960s, would be deeply touched by that conflict. His brother Mark remembers their father making medicine before sending Noah off to war. And his sister Leoda remembers their late mother, who never understood English, sitting in front of the television when Noah was overseas, trying to fathom a war that most of America found increasingly unfathomable.

Noah and the rest of the Seminoles who fought in Vietnam came back in one piece. Mark Billie firmly believes it was because of their father's medicine. Seminole Tribal President Mitchell Cypress, also a Vietnam veteran, remembers Noah telling him later, "We all made it back." It was only later that Cypress understood what he was saying.

But Noah would not come back totally unscathed. Because he enlisted in the Marines, his tour of duty would last four years. And because he fought during the "scorched earth" phase of the Vietnam War, from 1967 to 1970, he would be exposed to deadly chemicals dropped by U.S. aerial forces. His wife Brenda, a nurse, believes the U.S. government shortened his life.

"Noah regretted some things about Vietnam," Brenda Billie said. "He saw innocent children and women killed. But Noah was not a complainer. He was not a wallowing in self-pity kind of person."

Brenda, who knew Noah as a youthful football hero growing up in Hollywood, would see him again as a dialysis nurse in 1989. Barely 40, he had already lost full kidney functioning. He had what is called early onset diabetes, which Brenda Billie blames on Agent Orange, or other chemicals Noah was exposed to in Vietnam. Even though she knew the couple was living on borrowed time, she became Noah's third wife and caretaker through his most successful period as a painter.

Noah Billie died in January 2000 of complications from diabetes. He had suffered his second heart attack in the space of a year. He was 51. He died just as plans were finalized for the first major exhibition of his work, Feb. 18 through March 31, at the St. Petersburg Museum of History. Not one to ever seek personal glory, Noah "was really looking forward to his show," says Brenda.

Patricia Wickman, who heads the Tribe's Anthropology & Genealogy Department, called Noah her friend. She considers him "the most mature artistic talent that the Seminole Tribe of Florida has ever produced." Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Director Billy L. Cypress agrees that Noah, because of the long period that he was able to support himself entirely by his art, "is the best painter we have produced, so far." Cypress has put his money where his mouth is; buying Noah Billie paintings for his own collection as well as the museum's. Tribal Ambassador Joe Dan Osceola was also early to recognize the quality of Noah Billie's paintings, and purchased several from the artist.

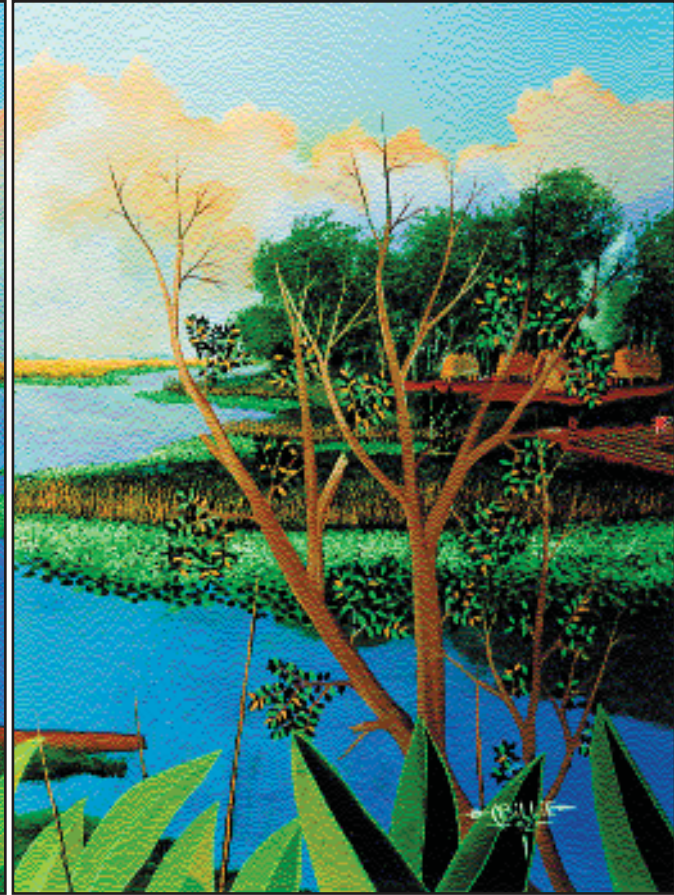
"The great tragedy of his life was that his artistic span was diminished by his health to such an extent that he never was able to produce a sufficient body of work," Wickman said. "His brilliantly clear vision of the Seminole world was equaled only by his sense of the dramatic and his love of his culture. Noah's talent should have taken him, and the Seminole people, a great deal farther than it was able to. The Seminole people have lost an articulate, artistic spokesperson."

Noah was on total disability as a result of his Vietnam service, and exposure to the chemical warfare practiced on the Viet Cong, with occasional bad results for U.S. ground forces. The Marine Corps admitted in a letter to Mr. Billie that he may have been one of those victims.

"What did they call it — " Brenda Billie asks, trying to remember " — an infectious herbicide, I think."



TRIPTYCH: Three-paneled work completed in 1992, shows traditional hunting scene.



Noah also suffered from an old football knee injury that forced him to walk with a cane. But that, too, was aggravated by Vietnam.

Of course, there were other factors, including periods of alcohol abuse, which wore down this former athlete and Marine. But Brenda, who lived with the artist during his most productive period, insists he was not an alcoholic.

"In all the time I knew him, he was drunk maybe three times," she said. "People would see him wandering out in the woods, or sitting real quiet by the 7-11 and they would think he was drunk."

"I'd go down there and he'd be drinking a Coke. He was an artist. He liked to spend a lot of time watching people, looking at shadows and landscapes."

She said that Noah attended Alcoholics Anonymous counseling after a series of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charges simply because it was court-ordered — not because he was an alcoholic.

Leoda Jumper Osceola, Noah and Mark's oldest sister, said, "I never remember him drinking before he went to Vietnam."

Brother Mark, who works as an alcohol and drug counselor for the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida on the Trail where their grandfather once poled his dugout canoe, said, "Noah's the only one who can say whether he was (an alcoholic) or not. He was no different from a lot of the people that did drink or something else for medication. He did have a problem when he drank."

One problem came in New Mexico, which became a kind of second home for Noah after Vietnam.

Both he and Jonah completed course work for associate's in fine arts degrees from the Institute of American Indian Art (IAIA) in Santa Fe. Teacher Linda Lomahaftewa remembered Noah as a painter of traditional Seminole subjects.

"That's what I liked about him," she said. "We encourage all our students to paint from their experience, and he did that beautifully."

Brenda Billie says Noah lived for years without a home in New Mexico, literally on the streets. Once, after Noah took a severe beating in a drunken brawl there, his sister JoAnn took their mother on her first airplane ride to nurse her oldest son back to health.

It was worse for Jonah. He died in Santa Fe in 1992, a victim of a hanta virus infection, immedi-

ately after he finished at IAIA.

Losing his younger brother at the prime of his life must have scarred Noah emotionally. But he did not show his emotions on the outside. He let them show through his art, which became increasingly polished and varied. Almost always, even in the changing light of New Mexico, he focused on scenes of traditional Seminole culture. His favorite subject was a Seminole man, sometimes alone, sometimes with a woman and children, poling a dugout canoe through a landscape of cypress trees and other native plants and wildlife. He also painted the Green Corn Dance, cooking, hunting and scenes from the Seminole Wars.

"His technical abilities are good, he has a certain style," said Polly Nordstrom, who holds a Master's degree in exhibition design from California State University at Fullerton. She selected the paintings for the tribute exhibit along with Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki curator David Blackard. "But the important part of his art is that it comes from the inside. His way of dealing with his culture was through visual arts."

Sam Bond, director of the St. Petersburg Museum of History, which is the first museum to exhibit a collection of Noah Billie paintings this large, said that for most non-Native visitors to the museum, "Noah Billie symbolizes what is unknown." He said he was proud to show off his art to a new, and wider, audience.

Noah Billie left a legacy of art beyond oil paintings. He illustrated an alphabet that is used to teach Miccosukee children. And he carved totem poles for the Seminole Museum in Tampa, Coo-Thun Chobee. In New Mexico, he worked with famed Indian sculptor Allan Houser, collaborating on several stone pieces. One of Noah's paintings was used as the cover for "Seminole Colors," a coloring book used at Ahfachkee School which also helps to explain Seminole culture through images. More than a dozen Seminole artists contributed to the book, which was published last year by the Anthropology & Genealogy Department. Noah's artwork has graced many Tribal projects, including the posters for Discover Native America and the "Native Visions, Native Voices" film festival at Eckerd College.

Sixteen paintings hang in tribute to one of the Seminole Tribe's best-loved artists. The works represent perhaps one-third of Noah Billie's output during his life. (The exhibit would have had 17 paintings, but the Tribe's Legal Department refused to part with a 1985 painting of a burial scene.) They are certainly part of Noah's legacy, too. He gave them no titles, just a signature "NB" drawn through with an arrow, and the year it was painted. Amazingly, he was never interviewed about his art during his lifetime.

Once, Brenda recalled, a Tampa Bay magazine reprinted one of Noah's paintings, of Seminole war leader Osceola with an upside-down American flag, which hangs at the Seminole Museum in Tampa. The magazine mistakenly credited the artist as James E. Billie. Even though the Seminole Chairman wrote a letter saying that while he wished he had the talent to make that painting, they had the wrong Billie. The magazine's editors would not publish a correction.

The painting was Noah's favorite, but was considered controversial by some Seminoles because Osceola was at war with the United States.

"To me, it's stating that the Seminoles were always mistreated and deceived by the U.S. government, and Osceola was a prime example of that," said Mark Billie.

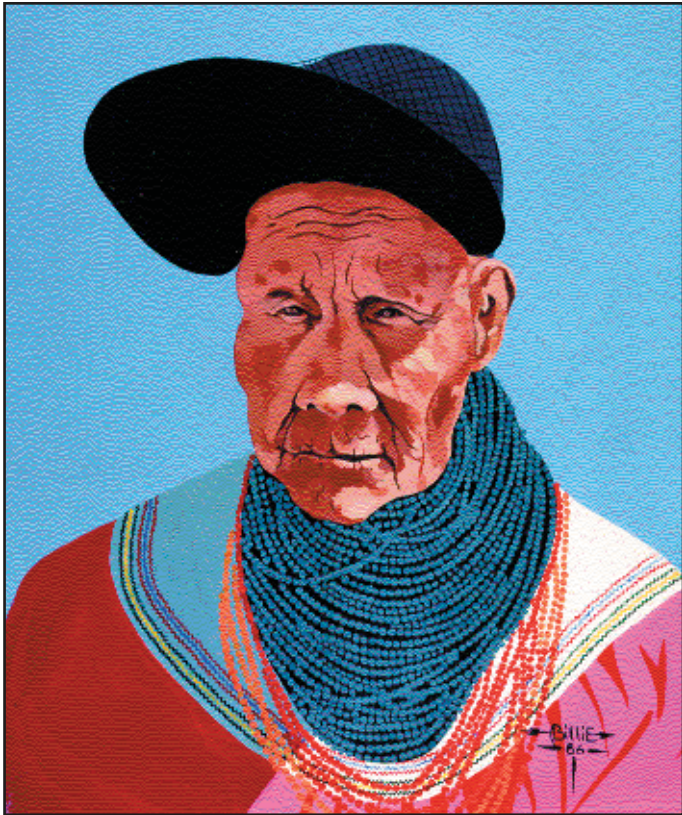
Brenda Billie offers a very different interpretation: "An upside-down flag meant distress. It was a warrior in trouble, and he needed his countrymen's help."

A second Vietnam-themed painting, from 1988, depicts a Seminole soldier in battle fatigues walking through rice paddies. Black helicopters dot the sky. A traditional Seminole warrior looks down from the clouds. Noah donated the painting to the Seminole Veterans.

"I think if you've got 50,000 different soldiers in that war, you've got 50,000 different stories," said Mitchell Cypress. "What he saw was what he drew."

Noah sold most of his later works to the Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum.

"He said he wanted it kept in a museum where all Seminole children could see where their past came from," Brenda Billie recalled. "Never for-



Above left, an early study of Osceola. Above, Mary M. Osceola was the model for this 1986 portrait.

get that. And be proud of where they came from."

The doctors and nurses who treated him in his last days were amazed by Noah Billie's incredible strength and positive attitude. Besides the withering effects of his diabetes, he had suffered from skin problems that left his back a mass of scars, vision problems that required two lens implants, laser surgery and special lighting to allow him to see well enough to paint. That's why he wears dark glasses in most of the later photographs. Still, he persevered.

"I was with him for 12 years, and I never heard Noah complain," Brenda said.

The very day Noah was taken to intensive care and put on life support, he had requested paints and canvases. He said he had a few more ideas he wanted to paint.



This 1992 painting of a Seminole man in a canoe was a familiar subject.

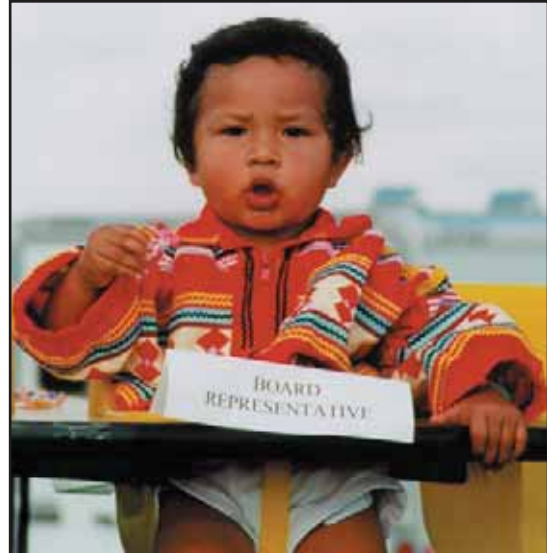


A unique study of an aninga was done in 1987.



This 1993 portrait of Sam Jones shows the warrior in ceremonial dress.





# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

March 3, 2000



Micco and Kowoko Billie.

## Young Seminole Dancers Honored

**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal Fair powwow dancers joined family and friends in honoring Seminole brothers Micco and Kowoko Billie (Panther Clan), who danced in their first official powwow. Wearing authentic grass dancer clothing, the brothers were joined by their parents, James and Lesley Billie, friends and family in an inter-tribal honor dance at the arena. Following the dance, the boys shook hands with everyone, presented gifts to special people in their lives and scattered toys on the arena floor for all children in attendance.

## Tribal Fair • Brighton Field Days



## Recreation Activities Results

### Canoe Racing Doubles

#### 17 & Over Men's

- 1st Place Vince Osceola  
Big Robert  
2nd Place Larry Howard  
Larnce Balentine  
3rd Place Vince Osceola  
Clinton Billie

#### 17 & Over Women's

- 1st Place Janice Osceola  
Beverly Alumbaugh  
2nd Place Gail Cypress  
Daisy Tiger

#### 16 & Under

- 1st Place Clinton Holt

#### 12 & Under

- 1st Place Josh Young  
Jackson Richardson

### Log Peeling Contest

#### 18 & Over - Men & Women

- 1st Place Charlie Cypress  
2nd Place Johnny Jones  
3rd Place Jimmie Wayne

#### Women

- 1st Place Dionne Billie  
2nd Place Theresa Bowers  
3rd Place Jennifer Jones

### Archery Contest

#### 8 & Under

- 1st Place Jackson Richardson  
2nd Place Nathan Gopher  
3rd Place Talena Castillo

#### 17 & Over Men's

- 1st Place Parker Jones  
2nd Place Sunny Frank  
3rd Place Ernie Tiger

#### 12 & Under

- 1st Place Marlin Foster  
2nd Place Josh Young  
3rd Place Justin Aldrich

#### 17 & Over Women's

- 1st Place Rose Jones  
2nd Place Carol Cypress  
3rd Place Farrah Jones

#### 16 & Under

- 1st Place Clinton Holt  
2nd Place Kiel Jumper  
3rd Place Wilson Bowers

## Tribal Fair Bowling, Golf Results

**HOLLYWOOD** — As the sun scorched the tourists at the fairgrounds, most

Tribal members could be found relaxing at University Bowl for the Tribal Fair Bowling

Tournament held on Feb. 12. The tournament was organized by Bobby Frank and Eugene Bowers. Sponsors included Hollywood Recreation, Priscilla Sayen of Secretary/Treasurer's Office, David Cypress, Jack Smith Jr., Max Osceola Jr., Elaine Aguilar, Richard Henry, Carl Baxley, Alex Johns, Larry Frank of Hollywood Gaming, and Danny Jumper of Seminole Broadcasting. Special thanks to Louise Gopher and Trisha Osceola for handling the registration and payout duties.

The following are the results of the tournament:

**Regular-** 1) 450, Toby & Sonya Johns 2) 390, Danny Jones & Dawn Snow

3) 383, Wayne Billie & Wendy Snow 4) 382, John Tigertail & Jennifer Tigertail 5) 376, Christian Osceola &

Jennifer Osceola 6) 369, Amos Billie & Alfreda Muskett 7) 367, Elton Shore & Farrah Jones 8) 363, Marcy Osceola & Amanda Smith 9) 361, Michael Micco & Tomie Micco

**Scotch Doubles-** 1) 210, Blake Osceola & Farrah Jones 2) 208, Sonny Frank & Mable Osceola 3) 204, Archie Johns & Monica Cypress 4) 199, Leon Wilcox & Patricia Wilcox 5) 192, Michael Micco & Gail Cypress 6) 191, Gibby Bowers & Margaret Billie 7) 189, Moke Osceola & Amanda Smith, Wayne Billie & Salina Dorgan 8) 184, Pernell Bert & Jennifer Osceola

**3-6-9** — 1) 477, Bobby Frank & Jennifer Tigertail 2) 467, Rufus Tiger & Gail Cypress 3) 460, Remus Griffin & Michelle Osceola 4) 453, Elton Shore & Dawn Snow 5) 450, Leon Wilcox & Mable Osceola 6) 439, Delwin McCowan & Crystal Huff 7) 437, Ronnie Doctor & Rose Jones 8) 430, Elrod Bowers & Patricia Wilcox 9) 428, Vernon Baker & Amanda Smith

**No Tap** — 1) 509, Farrah Jones

See RESULTS, page 3

## Tribal Fair Clothing Contest Winners

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people involved with the clothing competition (contestants, judges, chairman and those behind the scene). Great Job!

— Tribal Fair Committee Member Alice Sweat

### Seminole Tribal Fair Clothing Contest Winners:

#### 55 years & over, Men, Modern

**Traditional** — 1. Jack Motlow, 2. Russell Osceola, 3. Billy Micco, 4. Johnny Tucker, 5. Joe Osceola, 6. Willie Gopher. **Modern** — 1. Little Tigertail, 2. Joe Osceola, 3. Russell Osceola, 4. Willie Gopher, Jr., 5. Jimmy Smith, 6. Johnny Tucker.

#### Women, Traditional Style

1. Onnie Osceola, 2. Betty Osceola, 3. Rosie Billie. **Modern Traditional** — 1. Frances Osceola, 2. Leoda Osceola, 3. Mary Sanchez, 4. Onnie Osceola, 5. Tommie Jumper, 6. Mary Tiger. **Modern** — 1. Betty Clay, 2. Peggy Stivers, 3. Elsie

Bowers, 4. Frances Osceola, 5. Alice Osceola, 6. Rosie Billie.

#### 18 — 54 years, Men — Traditional Style

1. Moses Jumper, 2. Brian Billie, 3. Wesley Garcia, 4. Dallas Nunez, 5. Albert Snow, 6. Daniel Nunez. **Modern Traditional** — 1. Norman Huggins, 2. Paul Bowers, 3. Mike Smith, 4. Roger Smith, 5. Sam C. Micco, 6. Tom Motlow. **Modern** — 1. Danny Tommie, 2. Roger Smith, 3. Sany Billie, Jr., 4. Norman Huggins, 5. Robert Fish, 6. Parker Jones.

**Women, Traditional Style** — 1. Oneva Jones, 2. Laverne Thomas, 3. Alicia Sanchez, 4. Mary Jane Billie, 5. Tommie Micco, 6. Rose Jones. **Modern Traditional** —

1. Mary Billie, 2. Carlene Osceola, 3. Oneva Jones, 4. Louise Osceola, 5. Jo Johns, 6. Alicia Sanchez. **Modern** — 1. Louise Osceola, 2. Oneva Jones, 3. Leoma Poore, 4. Virginia Garcia, 5. Juanita Osceola, 6. Ginger Tiger.

## Men's Clothing Contest Brighton Field Days

**Medicine Dress:** 1st Jimmie O'Toole Osceola, 2nd Coty Bert, 3rd Willie Gopher Jr., 4th Virgil Doctor, 5th Sammie Gopher

**Modern 50 & older:** 1st Jack Motlow, 2nd Willie Gopher Jr., 3rd (tie) Jimmie Hank Osceola and Thomas Billie, 4th Billie Micco, 5th Ben Bowers.







## Seminole Tribal Fair

## Fine Art Contest

### Art Contest Winners

HOLLYWOOD – The following are the results of the Tribal Fair art contest.

#### Watercolor

- 1st – Hershal Frank, \$350
- 2nd – Dion Sanders, \$200
- 3rd – Dawna Cypress, \$150

#### Oil

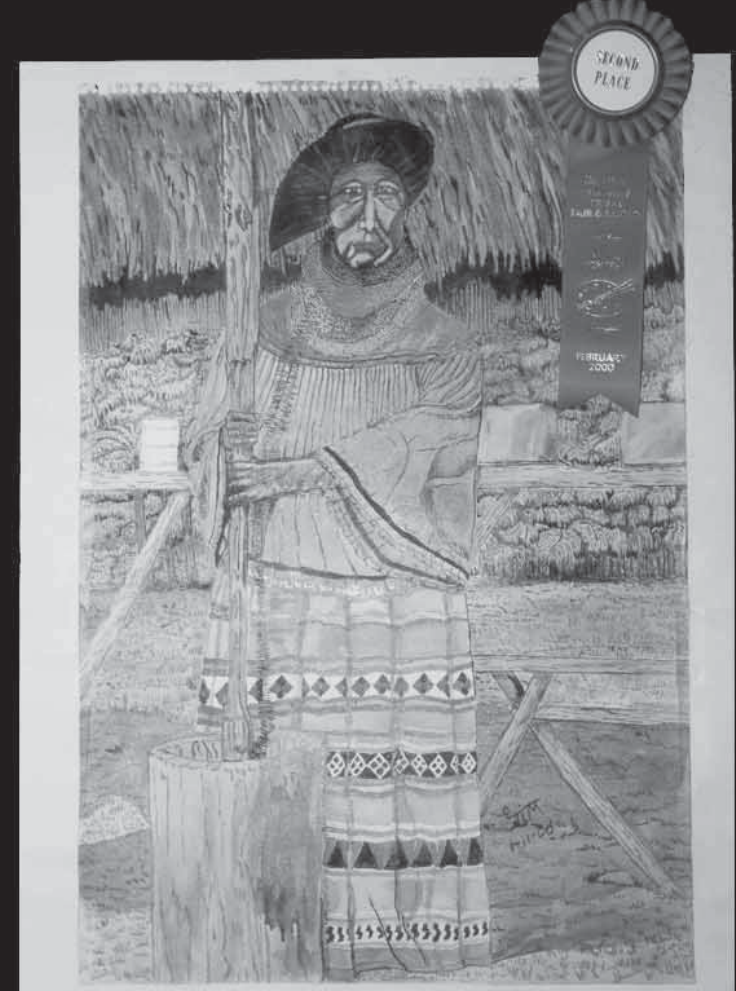
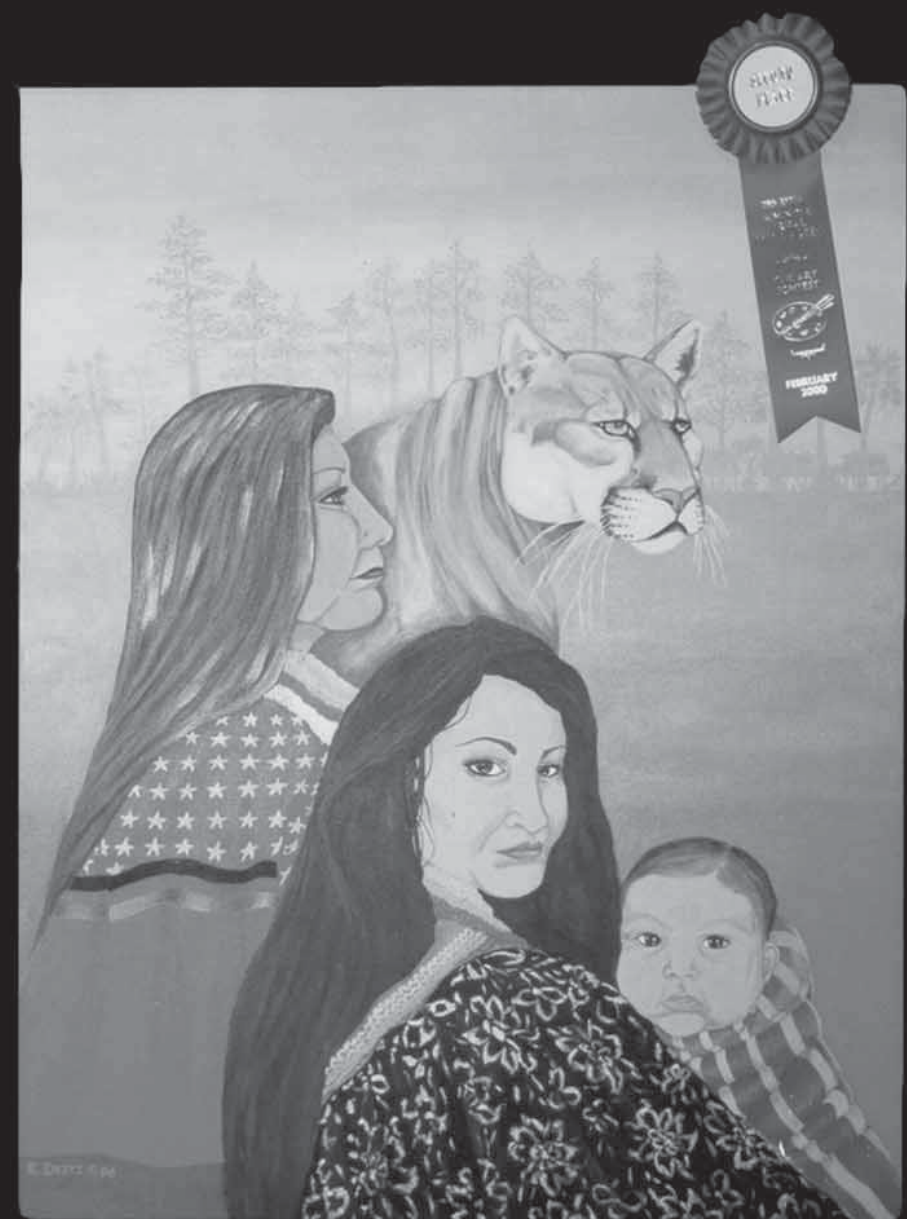
- 1st – April Billie, \$350
- 2nd – Summer Billie, \$200
- 3rd – April Billie, \$150

#### Mixed Media

- 1st – Lydia Hernandez, \$350
- 2nd – Owachige Redmond, \$200
- 3rd – Wilson Bowers, \$150

#### Pencil

- 2nd – Allison Garza, \$200



### 1st & 2nd Place Winners





## Results

Continued from page 1

& Delwin McCowan 2) 488, Rosetta Jumper & Toby Johns, Terri Frank & Ollie Wareham 4) 476, Lottie Cody & Danny Tommie 5) Mary Bowers & Wayne Billie 6) 448, Monica Cypress & Moke Osceola 7) 446, Sarah Sampson & Michael Micco 8) 443, Mary Tigertail & Leon Wilcox 9) 439, Sonya Johns & Eugene Bowers.

### Golf

Pleasant conditions and a large field made for some competitive golf at the Tribal Fair golf tournament, Feb. 9, at the Bonaventure Country Club. Councilman Max Osceola Jr. waived the entry fee for the all-Indian tournament.

**Four-man Scramble**- 1st (64) James Tommie, Mike Leaf, Rick Butler, Chris Miskokomon; 2nd (66) Jimbo Osceola, Mitch Osceola, Leroy King, Wanda Wood; 3rd (67) Mike Micco, Lawrence Osceola, Elrod Bowers, Joe Grasshopper; 4th (68) Jeff Johns, Del Riley, Mark Sebastian, Selina Noear; 5th (68) Richard Henry, Marl Osceola, Jimmy Osceola, Ezra Fields; 6th (69) Scarlett Jumper, George Grasshopper, Amondo Sebastian, Steve Chrisjohn.

**Closest to Pin**- #3- J.T. Bread, Melissa Cypress; #6- Mitch Osceola; #12- Mike Leaf, Georgia Pedro; #17- Richard Sebastian, Wanda Goodleaf.

**Longest Drive**- David Osceola, Melissa Cypress.

**Straightest Drive**- Mike Micco, Wanda Goodleaf.







Photos By: Libby Blake, Elrod Bowers, Charles Flowers, Peter B. Gallagher, Robert Kippenberger, Mark Madrid, Dan McDonald, Ernie Tiger.

