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# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

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Olav Fennemann, Per Anderson meet Chief Billie.

## Vikings, Seminoles To Sponsor Play

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Vikings, first Europeans to reach the New World, landed at the Seminole Tribe of Florida headquarters here recently. They came in peace and to make a deal.

In fact, it is going to be a big deal. A joint sponsorship – Seminole and Viking – of an astounding theatrical event that will present the story of that first meeting, 1,000 years ago, to audiences in both Denmark and the United States in the summer of 2001.

“For years the historians have told us that somebody named Columbus was the first white man to visit our shores, but we have come to find out that these tall blonde men in great ships known as the Vikings were here 500 years earlier,” said Chairman

See **VIKING**, page 13

## Oh-gu-ba-che

The recent rains (*oh-gu-ba-che*) that flooded Big Cypress caught everyone by surprise. I was staying with (my son) Big Shot and (his wife) Laquita, and the water flooded their yard.

Big Shot was out of town, and Laquita had her hands full dealing with the water. They lost several chickens and a pig that drowned in its cage during the night. And, their horses had wet feet from standing in water.

Two men came one day while I was sitting on the front porch of Big Shot’s house. They asked me what I thought of the water.

I said, ‘I think if Big Cypress people had better drainage, the water wouldn’t lie this long. It would go in the canal or into a river the same day as it hit the ground. Don’t you think?’

They said, ‘You’re right, you’re right.’ I told them to speak to their Councilmen and Board Representative and tell them what you all think about the rain and how much it put a flood in your yards. If the drainage were fixed better, it wouldn’t lay around for weeks.

See **BETTY MAE**, page 6



## Pithlachocco: ‘Extraordinary Find’



GHOSTLY GALLEON: A visitor from ancient times, the bow of an aboriginal canoe emerges from the eerie Pithlachocco marsh.

By Charles Flowers and Peter B. Gallagher

**NEWMAN’S LAKE** – The Indian who carved the oldest dugout canoe found here was working on his boat before Noah built the Ark.

In fact, the age and span of the largest aboriginal canoe find in history has confirmed that Florida’s indigenous peoples – including ancestors of the modern Seminoles – made boats to travel this lake 3,000 years before Christ walked the earth.

The results from radiocarbon dating on 52 of the 87 Indian canoes found last May and June on this drought-parched lakebed near Gainesville show the oldest canoe was made about 5,000 years ago — one of the oldest craft ever found in Florida. The sample from the youngest canoe was about 500 years old —when Columbus was sailing. The rest fell within the 4,500-year span.

“Extraordinary Find,” is how Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris headlined her Oct. 18 announcement.

“Nature has brought our canoes back to the surface to remind us all that we were here and have been here, in an unbroken chain, for many thousands of years,” Chairman James E. Billie said. Billie visited the site in August, noting the lake’s original name was *Pithlachocco* – a Seminole word for “place of long boats.”

“It was called that for thousands of years for a reason,” he said. “This may have been a ‘factory’ where boats were made.”

The canoes were studied by a process known as radiocarbon dating. Core samples were taken and hand-carried to the Beta Analytic laboratory in Miami for study. By measuring the rate of decay of carbon, the age of any formerly living object can be fairly accurately estimated, archaeologists claim.

In 1990, a 6,000-year-old canoe was found buried in a peat layer below DeLeon Springs in Volusia County. And 19 Indian canoes, ranging in age from 320 to 3,500 years old, were unearthed from a

peat farm in Clay County in the 1980s. That total was the previous largest cache of Indian canoes discovered anywhere before *Pithlachocco* find. A thousand-year-old dugout canoe pulled from the bottom of Lake Hancock is now on exhibit at the Depot Museum in Lake Wales.

But nothing of the age and magnitude of these canoes has been discovered anywhere, says Barbara Purdy, a Gainesville archaeologist who was part of the group that discovered the first seven canoes in early May. Lake resident and folksinger Dale Crider, state archaeologist Melissa Memory and a student group from Gainesville East Side High were also credited with discovering canoes.

“None has the antiquity, nor the number, that Florida has,” said Purdy, comparing this find to those of other states. “This is a treasure beyond compare.”

The *Pithlachocco* canoe site ranks with the 1999 discovery of the Miami Circle in importance to

See **PITHLACHOCCO**, page 20

## For Tribal Children, Adults Oct. 24 - 27

# Shah-who-pah-ye-ke

■ Seminole Culture: Music and Storytelling

By Peter B. Gallagher

Seminole storyteller Jim Billie will feature Mahenwahdose storytellers Will Hill and Geninne DeMarco of Oklahoma along with national children’s artist Shana Banana and his own band in a traveling cultural fun show called “Shah-who-pah-ye-ke” on a tour of five Florida Indian reservations, Oct. 24-27.

*Shah-who-pah-ye-ke* is a Miccosukee term for “show or demonstration.”

The shows are for Seminole and Miccosukee children, their families and community members, and will combine music and storytelling with a Seminole cultural theme. “From the moment I first saw these storytellers at Red Earth, I’ve really wanted to give our Tribal children this experience,” said Chief Billie, who appeared with Oklahoma Seminoles Hill and DeMarco in shows at Nashville and Tunica, Miss. “But the adults will also get a kick out of this show, too.”

“And all the kids know Shana Banana. She has spent a lot of time working on Seminole themed shows that she presents to the outside

world, and also to our kids. Heck, I might sing a few songs myself. I hope every Seminole has a chance to catch at least one of these shows.”

The tour opens up at the **Immokalee** Gymnasium on Tuesday Oct. 24. Councilwoman Elaine Aguilar will sponsor a 6 p.m. Community dinner at the gym, with the show starting at 7 p.m.

Next stop is Wednesday Oct. 25 for a 1 p.m. show at the **Big Cypress** Gymnasium.

Third show is Thursday at the **Brighton** Gymnasium. Councilman Jack Smith will sponsor a 6 p.m. Community dinner and the “Shah-who-pah-ye-ke” will begin at 7 p.m.

Two shows on Friday Oct. 27 will bring the tour to the **Miccosukee** Indian School gym at 10 a.m. and wind up with a special show at the **Hollywood** Auditorium beginning at 8 p.m.

Hill, a registered Muscogee Indian of Creek, Seminole and Cherokee descent, is artistic director of Mahenwahdoes (a Creek word for “It is True”) True Native American Theatre. Along with DeMarco and Winona Henderson, Hill spends his

See **STORYTELLING**, page 14

## Jessica Buster Inducted Into Honor Society

By Ernie Tiger

**HOLLYWOOD** — Seminole Tribe of Florida member Jessica Buster was inducted into the prestigious Honor Society at Sheridan Hills Christian School, Oct. 3.

The induction rewards Jessica for her outstanding accomplishments, including leadership, a 3.0 GPA, and community service hours. The recognition ceremonies are held annually to build character and motivate students to achieve their goals in school.

Jessica earned community service hours by participating in Tribal functions at Hollywood where she resides. Her work included community meetings and community events such as the July 4th celebration where Jessica and father Paul Buster performed a singing duo for the onlookers.

Jessica also served

food to members of the community to earn hours. Ten hours for each year you attend school was the requirement.

“It was no problem really to earn the hours,” Jessica said. “I love being around my people and most of my family usually attends the functions, so it was more enjoyable than hard work for me.”

Singing is just one of her hobbies. She also enjoys horseback riding and barrel racing. When asked what she had in mind for the future she replied she was interested in attending the University of Miami and that her goal would be to work with kids.

Whatever this self-motivated teen plans to do in the future is up to her, but one thing is for sure: accomplishments and goals will continue to swell her resume due to her motivation and strong will to succeed.



Jessica Buster is proud of her accomplishments.



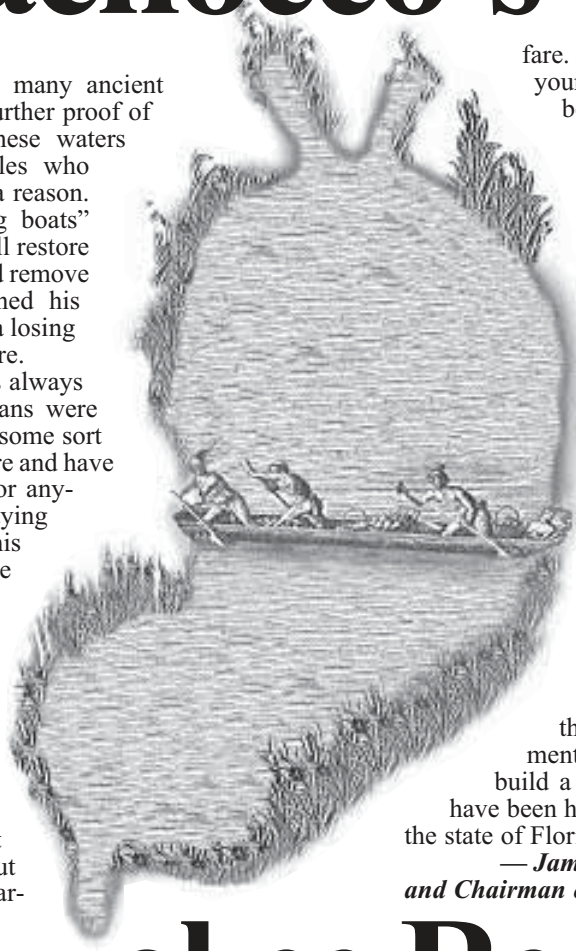
Editorial

# Pithlachocco's Honor

**\*James E. Billie**  
The discovery of so many ancient canoes in Newnan's Lake is further proof of why the Seminoles called these waters *Pith-la-choc-co*. The Seminoles who called it that word did so for a reason. For thousands of years "long boats" have been here. I hope they will restore the lake to its rightful name and remove the name Newnan, who gained his fame by disgracing himself in a losing battle to the Indians around here.

The United States has always tried to contend that we Indians were not always here, that we were some sort of immigrants, who just got here and have no right to claim to the land or anything else. They have been saying this for years and even to this day you will hear someone stand up and say "You Indians are newcomers."

We know that is not true. And now, nature has revealed its secrets to honor the Indians of today and to show that we have been here a mighty long time, regardless of what has taken place. You cannot just wash the Seminoles Indians out of everyone's brains with war-



fare. That is the nature of warfare: if you can't beat your enemy by treating him with dignity, you try to beat him on the battlefield. Nature has brought our canoes back to the surface to remind us all that we were here and have been here, in an unbroken chain for many thousands of years.

This is a great event for the Seminoles. We Indians will feel pride and dignity when we talk of those canoes. The Indians who made them have honored us tremendously and for that I will always be grateful.

I am thankful that the state of Florida has been honest and truthful with us about the ages of these canoes. They could have lied to us and further taken dignity out of the Seminoles' lives. But I am thankful that they have gone to all the trouble of radiocarbon dating and truthfully publishing the results for all to see.

They tell me this is the largest and oldest canoe find of its kind and I am very thankful for all the efforts of those state officials and private citizens who found and took special measures to protect these canoes, even under threat from another industry and arm of the government. I hope that we can all look to the future and build a stronger bond with each other, the Indians who have been here thousands of years and the people who live in the state of Florida today.

— **James E. Billie is Publisher of the Seminole Tribune and Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida**

# Pa-hay-okee Report

**\*U.S. Dept. Of The Interior**  
A century ago, the Everglades covered some 18,000 square miles, a shallow river of grass-like plants bordering expanses of cypress swamp and mangrove forest, tropical hardwood hammocks, and deepwater sloughs, filled with wetland birds and aquatic wildlife, part of the larger watershed extending from present-day Orlando to Florida Bay, roughly two-thirds the length of the Florida peninsula.

Today, in addition to being one of the world's unique environmental resources, this vast region is home to more than six million Americans, some of the fastest-growing cities in the country, a huge tourism industry, and a large agricultural economy.

And therein lies the problem.

Over the past 100 years, manmade changes to the region's water flow have provided important economic benefits to the region, but also have had deteriorating effects on the environment. Nearly half of those wetlands have been lost, while what remains shows severe damage. And South Florida, as a society and economy dependent on its watery heartland, is not sustainable on its present course.

Leading the search for solutions is the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, a federal, state, and tribal initiative chaired by the Secretary of the Interior, aimed at saving and restoring the Nation's most endangered subtropical wetland system.

environment. First, restore a more natural flow of water, providing adequate water supplies, water quality, and flood control. Second, restore and enhance the natural system, physically and biologically reconnecting natural habitats, and reestablishing species diversity. Third, transform the built environment. This means developing sustainable lifestyles and economies that do not damage the natural environment or degrade the quality of life in built areas.

Much has been accomplished in the last six years. Almost \$1.2 billion of federal funds and \$2.3 billion of state funds have been invested. More than 4.7 million acres of land have been acquired by state and federal agencies, including 53,662 acres in 1999. The bald eagles are back, the native crocodile population is growing, and 29,000 acres of invasive plants have been treated or eradicated. New programs in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to monitor the health and status of the Nation's only living coral reef ecosystem.

Much more needs to be done, however. According to the Everglades restoration proposal presented to Congress last year, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, approximately \$7.8 billion more will be needed over the next 20 years to fulfill the promise of South Florida as a landscape whose health, integrity, and beauty are restored and are nurtured by its interrelationships with South Florida's human communities.

— **From the Department of the Interior September, 2000 Report to the Nation "Restoring The River of Grass"**

e-mail

**Editor:**  
I am searching for the Seminole relatives of Robert Brooth Smith, who was Chief of Police in the Oceanside (California) Police Department when he died on June 12, 1988. Our daughter, Cheryl, is very eager to locate her relatives.

Robert was born Feb. 20, 1929, in Lakeport, Fla. His mother, Rhoda Edwards nee Hendry, deceased, lived in Moore Haven. Her mother and father were Cora Agnes Howard and John Wright Hendry. Robert had one picture that showed a large number of Seminoles who were relatives, but the picture was lost many years ago and we never knew any of their names.

We would greatly appreciate any information from anyone who knew him and his family. Please send it to me at 304 Peters Drive, Vista, CA 92083, call me collect at (760) 945-0697, or email SSCHALET@aol.com.

**Maletine Smith  
Vista, CA**

**Editor:**  
I saw the article in the *New York Times* about your difficulties in getting alligator wrestlers. I suggest you try to get some of the crocodile wrestlers from Thailand. (I go on business trips to Thailand.) There are several crocodile farms in Thailand and at least one of them has a nice show for the tourists.

The crocodile wrestlers manhandle the crocs of course, but they also stick their heads in the croc's mouth. They stroke the croc and lure it into a hypnotic state and then ask the crowd to throw

**tribune@semtribe.com**  
down pa-hay-okee. This is tossed in the "sleeping" crocs mouth and then the wrestler reaches in with his hand and takes it out and, of course, pockets the money.

**Ken Walston  
kwalston@ix.netcom.com**

**Editor:**  
I read about the tragedy at Pith-la-choc-co (Lake Newnan — *Seminole Tribune*, Sept. 8 edition) I'm shocked speechless. This is America. Isn't it supposedly modern and organized, not some backwater Geopstick Banana Republic?

**Geoff Carver  
gcarver@t-online.de**

**Editor:**  
I have acquired a bottle of your Seminole Swamp Seasoning and it is by far the best seasoning I have ever used. I can't find a food that this seasoning doesn't go with! I am approaching the bottom of my bottle and was looking for more on your website, but I encountered an error when trying to go to the Seasoning section.

If you could tell me how to order some or where in my area I might find it I sure would appreciate it. Thank you for any help you can provide in getting some more of what is the best seasoning on the face of the planet.

**Jay Fouts  
Orange, CA**

*You apparently tried to order while the server was down. Try again at [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com).*

**Chief Billie:**  
Your site is very good. I am from Iceland and have only read about your people in books from the old days and had sympathy regarding how you lost your land again and again. Times do change and the stronger try always to take every thing away from ordinary people.

**Max Gardarsson  
Holly Gaddard  
seapeeper@hotmail.com**

**Editor:**  
I just returned from a week in North Florida. It was so nice to be home again. Eating oysters and fresh fish. My mother made me fried bread, white peas, okra, and swamp cabbage. Just wanted you to know I miss it so. Sho naa bish.

**Albert Smith  
Albert.Smith@gecapital.com**

**Dear Seminole Tribune:**  
As a faithful reader of the *Seminole Tribune*, I cannot express enough what a wonderful paper I think it is. It keeps me in touch and makes me feel less of an outsider. I also marvel at your patience and great kindness in responding to your readers (thank you in advance for your patience with mine). I look forward to the next issue with great expectation.

**Annie Payne  
Annie@yahoo  
cpayne@yahoo.com**



Hon-nut-be hot-choke-la-pun-gae a-hun-on-choke-lo-may

## Who's Sorry Now?

The first part of this column relates to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) apology made by Secretary Kevin Gover at the BIA's 175th anniversary.

Why is he doing the apologizing for what was done by others to all of our Native Americans? Shouldn't those that have done the uncalled for admit fault, not another Native? How many of us out there have ever seen someone admit they made a mistake and stand up towards the consequences? Can't really say I've ever seen enough to count on one hand. It is so much easier to point the finger at someone else, to be more like Teflon (where nothing sticks). Sure it's easy, then aren't you left with a guilty conscience? Most of those who fall under such category do not care and as long as they come out ahead could really give a damn. This does not right the wrong, though!

Many of us were warned years ago that one day we would be standing in the positions we're at now. So why aren't we trying to make a change for improvements? The future has many ups and downs to it and working together can make many changes towards our benefits. The key here is together, not against, and it seems hopeless. Even though this continues we must pursue with all of our endeavors at being victorious. Aren't we stronger in larger numbers? Doesn't the majority rule?

Is there a better way to address Indian issues within an administration? How many times have you tried to get your point across? Surely you can't stop with one attempt. Approach with another speaker, another point, and another style and to another administration till you're heard. We are not known as quitters, we just keep on truckin' until you hit it head on! The fact of the matter is that we are not greedy to have to degrade ourselves, but then we stand up for what we believe in



**Editor's Thoughts**  
By Virginia Mitchell

Sure you can decide on not having children, but you're only denying yourself of real happiness. You're not getting real love and security now with that abusive partner. Let someone else have that headache in that you may actually live and find some lasting love from your offspring. At least you will get back more from family instead of nothing worthy back from that partner. As you can see I've been trying to approach this conduct from different angles, hoping that one will get across to someone. All of our prayers go out to our many abusive individuals, you are not forgotten, we love you and will continue to do so.

The future does not have to look gloomy from here on, just make certain adjustments to achieve our priorities. No more apologies or excuses. Don't be afraid, peace awaits all who attempt!

I thought the following e-mail was appropriate for publishing, so if you are against domestic abuse, forward this.

**I Got Flowers Today**  
*I got flowers today.  
It wasn't my birthday or any other special day.  
We had our first argument last night, And he said a lot of cruel things that really hurt me.  
I know he is sorry and didn't mean the things he said.  
Because he sent me flowers today.  
I got flowers today.  
It wasn't our anniversary or any other special day.  
Last night, he threw me into a wall and started to choke me.  
It seemed like a nightmare  
I couldn't believe it was real.  
I woke up this morning sore and bruised all over  
I know he must be sorry.  
Because he sent me flowers today.*

*I got flowers today.  
And it wasn't Mother's Day or any other special day.  
Last night, he beat me up again.  
And it was much worse than all the other times.  
If I leave him, what will I do?  
How will I take care of my kids?  
What about money?  
I'm afraid of him and scared to leave.  
But I know he must be sorry.  
Because he sent me flowers today.*

*I got flowers today.  
Today was a very special day.  
It was the day of my funeral.  
Last night, he finally killed me.  
He beat me to death.  
If only I had gathered enough courage and strength to leave him, I would not have gotten flowers today!*

**The Tribune wants your opinion! on Tribal membership, blood quantum and Seminole clans**  
**Write Seminole Communications**  
**6300 Stirling Rd, Hollywood, FL 33024.**  
**or email [tribune@semtribe.com](mailto:tribune@semtribe.com)**  
**or call Virginia Mitchell at 954-967-3416**  
**Let us know what YOU think!**



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Reflections By Patsy West

# O-he-ha: No Laughing Matter

*Editor's note: Recently we received an e-mail from Nicole at NMG0330@aol.com, who asked; "I am wondering what the Seminole Indians used for mosquito repellent in the Everglades?" The following is the response from historian and author Patsy West.*

Good question. It seems amazing that in the majority of scholastic material compiled on the Florida Seminoles, so little is said about their reaction to the mosquito or other insects since the Everglades was and is still full of them.

Everglades were like "a sand storm of insects in the Everglades were noted that the swarms of insects in the Sahara." Michael Gannon, in his *Short History of Florida* noted, "No complaint about Florida life, from mission days to the 1940's, had been more persistent or vocal than the complaint about mosquitoes."

An early account of the Tequesta Indians was made by Brother Francisco Villareal writing from Miami in January 1568. He discussed a three-month long plague of mosquitoes in which their only relief was to stay close to the fire where they could be smothered in smoke, which deterred the insects. The Tequesta residents of that village, however, left to go to an island on the seacoast, probably a seasonal move to escape the pests.

During the Seminole wars of the early nineteenth century, mosquitoes were so bad that they kept the United States military away during the hot, wet "sickly seasons," when stinging insects and the resulting malarial fevers were prevalent. During the home-steading era in the late nineteenth century, pioneer settlers carried a mosquito smudge with them.

Smudges were often made of palmetto roots with wet moss or wet grass added to the pot. Pioneers choked and coughed, and young girls' complexions suffered with their skin becoming parched and red. But, it was the best method available to keep the insects at bay.

Cotton mosquito netting or fine weave cheesecloth was tacked over windows as there was virtually no screen wire available at that time. Inside, families slept under mosquito bars, which were hung around the beds. A bar could be ordered from Key West or Jacksonville and cost around \$1.50. If one couldn't afford the manufactured variety, the cloth

could also be ordered and sewn into a handmade mosquito net.

Another insect problem was horse flies, which were said to be as 'big as bumblebees.' "The horses suffered from their bites, one of which would cause a stream of blood to run down the horse's leg. Fertilizer bags were converted into pants for the horses' protection," wrote Miami pioneer Florence Miller.

The Seminoles called the mosquito "o-he-ha" (Creek) and I:laponathli: "hos-ko-ton-i." And, while well conditioned to insect bites, the Seminoles were not immune to the bite of the mosquito. The most well known case being malaria contracted by Osceola during the Second Seminole War.

I asked Jimmie O'Toole Osceola what he did to protect himself from mosquito bites. He immediately responded, "Oh, Deepwoods and Off!" Explaining that I meant in the "good old days," he provided some insight on the 'old time' Big Cypress Seminoles' method of dealing with these pesky insects.

"The campfire was always burning, with the wind blowing the smoke around. My Dad used to rake up leaves and garbage and make small piles around the camp. In the evening he'd burn the piles to keep the mosquitoes away.

"Sometimes he'd pull up a plant called dacthee, or dac-thee-toni. He'd put those on the fire. They make smoke and smell okay. When the mosquitoes were really bad the family would go to bed early, before dusk when the bugs would really come out.



This photo shows Seminoles discovered a better way to deal with bugs while sleeping -- the use of modern mosquito netting.

We'd tuck ourselves under mosquito netting under the chickee."

There are few of us in south Florida who can still remember experiences with mosquitoes and sand flies ("no-secums") in the city. Now, because of drainage, the filling in of swamps, and spraying, one has to go farther afield to Big Cypress or Chokoloskee, in order to get a quick reality check on mosquitoes.

Just a few weeks ago I was in Chokoloskee and Everglade City with some staff members of ABI Productions from New York City, who are involved in

the Seminole Tribe's documentary film series *Unconquerable!*

The crew was making their first trip into the Everglades and dined in Everglades City. It was dusk when we arrived at Smallwood's Store. Immediately we were smothered by those large, black, brackish-water mosquitoes that loved the New Yorkers. They also loved yours truly!

It made me wish I had brought a mosquito smudge.

— *Reflections, Number 181.*

## Florida Governor's Council

# 'What Are We Doing Here?'

**By Colin Kenny**  
**MICCOSUKEE RESORT** — To the first-time observer, it is hard to figure out the actual purpose of the Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs (FGCIA). But don't feel bad. It seems that on this Columbus Day 2000 holiday here, even the FGCIA Board of Directors were trying to figure out that very thing.

"Why do we keep on hanging on to the governor's coattails when he doesn't want us?" said FGCIA Co-Chairman and Seminole Tribal Chairman James E. Billie.

"We have to have the Council to get funded," answered Treasurer Robert Travis.

"It seems like it should be another department . . ." said the Chairman. Chairman Billie's sentiments resonated through each attendee of this meeting as he asked the timeless question that like a nagging wife has driven some men crazy: "What are we doing here?"

The incident at Newnan's Lake provided a "case in point" as Billie referred to ancient Indian canoes inadvertently destroyed by a state-permitted deadhead logger on a lake that the Seminoles once called *Pith-la-choc-co* (meaning "Place of Long Boats").

"Government had no regard for what happened in the past," the colorful Chairman declared, "if it was George Washington's penis, they'd make a big effort, but if it's Indians — no effort."

Although FGCIA meetings are supposed to be held twice a year, this one was the first since April 1999. At least two board members, Osceola Tribal members Jack Smith Jr. and Max Osceola Jr., were not expected to show — neither one has attended an FGCIA meeting in three years, according to Seminole Tribal Liaison Steven Bowers.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m. by FGCIA Co-Chairman of the Board and Miccosukee Tribal Chairman Billy Cypress. Since Seminole Chairman Billie was running late, Chairman Cypress suggested that the Board begin with old business. Executive Director Joe Quetone then proceeded with the 1998-99 audit report and the 1999-2000 financial report as well as the 2000-2001 proposed budget. Treasurer Robert Travis then made a motion to submit a resolution to the Governor to require the Council to be reassigned to the Governor's office. The motion was passed among the board members.

Then came the staff reports. Quetone explained how local, State and Federal government applies to various Indian issues, such as Native American archeological finds, verifying membership to federally recognized tribes and so on. He brought up Kidcare (no-premium health insurance program available for Indian children). Bob Kellam reported on the encouraging success of the Employment Training Program and the Mel Blount Home for Boys in Vidalia, Ga., where there are currently six Seminole Indians enrolled. (Incidentally, former Pittsburgh Steeler and NFL Hall of Famer Mel Blount went to school with Treasurer Travis).

When Chairman James Billie arrived — an hour late — he was just in time to see Robert Travis reviewing the minutes for the previous FGCIA meeting. Joel Harris moved to have minutes accepted, Colley Billie seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The board members then accepted, seconded and approved the financial reports, the proposed budget and the FGCIA, Inc. contracts etc.

The FGCIA "was not instituted by law . . . [but] by the governor himself," according to Chairman Billie. Indeed it was on April 10, 1974, that Gov. Reuben Askew signed an Executive Order calling for a private, non-profit corporation to be called The Florida Governor's Council on Indian Affairs to advise the governor "on matters affecting the rights and interests of the Indian people of Florida, with representing the interests of the Indian people of Florida before various state agencies, and with assisting the state in carrying out its responsibilities to the Indian people of Florida." It was further charged that the FGCIA "shall provide or help to provide technical assistance for the educational,

economic, social and cultural advancement of the Indian people of Florida."

In those days, as Seminole Tribal Liaison Steven Bowers pointed out at the meeting, the Tribal Liaison could apply for a direct grant from the governor's office for services for the elderly and emergency medical care and then get a direct grant from Tallahassee to the Tribe. But times change. Tribes change. And governors and their administrations change. Bowers remembered that right after Hurricane Andrew, the Tribe couldn't get a grant for emergency assistance. "We had to provide our own services," Bowers said. "We're not getting anything — some cases we don't want anything."

A very nice man, a lobbyist for Bell South named Frank Meiners (husband of board member Marlene Meiners) stood up from the audience and offered what seemed like inside information on what the State government thinks the purpose of the FGCIA is. "What they perceive," said the gentleman, "is the Council is the information source for what's going on with the Tribes."

There were other gripes. Miccosukee Chairman Billy Cypress had "a bad taste about the State Department."

Board member, member of the Republican Executive Committee and part-Cherokee Joel Harris declared that his own 26 year-old daughter can't get a good paying job in Marion County. Where does he get assistance for her? he asks.

Board Secretary Melissa McRae tells Joel about a Vocational Rehab program "for people that have Indian heritage — not even provable Indian heritage."

From his office in Tallahassee, Quetone prefers not to call the FGCIA a lobbying group but rather an "advocate" for Indian interests and concerns. He also says that the FGCIA "should never be a conduit for the Tribe to go through to the State."

Here are some things the FGCIA has accomplished. According to the information packet handed out at the FGCIA meeting, the Miccosukee Shell Plaza at Exit 14 on Alligator Alley, is the result of the FGCIA obtaining a guarantee from the State Department of Transportation that an interchange of I-75 be located on the Miccosukee Reservation. The FGCIA "assisted in the development of Gov. Graham's policy regarding requests from groups that they be recognized as 'Indian Tribes' by the Executive Office of the Governor. The FGCIA also "developed and implemented the Florida Indian Youth Program, a program designed to increase high school graduation and higher education rates for school-age Native American Youth." Quetone adds that the FGCIA was instrumental in getting the first payphone out in the Big Cypress Indian Reservation. And the list goes on.

Of course that's all well and good. But for James E. Billie, there are still questions.

"Is the program outdated?" asks Chairman Billie.

"Unfortunately, there still is a need for advocacy," answers Travis.

"Are there groups for Hispanics, Whites, Blacks . . .?"

Chairman Billie called for a "redefining of the purpose of FGCIA." Chairman Cypress called to "redefine our roles on how we can help Indians."

Perhaps it's the governor in "Governor's Council" that irks Chairman Billie so. "We have a meeting and it's not like the governor is on the phone — 'What did they say?'" said Billie. "I don't want that kind of control in my life. If the governor wants to know what's going on, he can call my office."

Chairman Billie called for a new resolution so "I would feel that when we leave this building something's gonna happen." Travis thought that was a good idea and said that he would write one up.

Steven Bowers said that "redirection is good timing." and Chairman Billie called for the next FGCIA meeting to be in Gainesville.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

## E-mail

Continued from page 2

**Chief Billie:**  
 Hi. I am a friend of Norman Lee Buford Jr. (Lone Buck). I was in the armed services with him and were great friends, but I have lost track of him. I would like to get in touch with him to tell him about a reunion that is going to take place soon. It would be nice to talk to him again — he is a great guy. Or could tell me

how I can get in touch with his father, Chief Running Buck Sr. (Norman Lee Buford Sr.). Thank you very much.

**Stanley Kenneth Shosted**  
**kanip1@networld.com**

**Chief Billie:**  
 I really enjoyed travelling through your website. I met you this summer in Valhal at the Vikingplay in Jels where you delivered the absolute best musical experience. The last night you performed in Jels I was even lucky

enough to get on stage with you and sing *Back to the Swamp* - maybe you remember me.

Yesterday we practiced with the Valhal-band and Ib Paasch Nielsen told us about his fantastic trip to Florida. I am really looking forward to meeting you again next summer. Respectfully yours.

**Michael Toftmann**  
**Schmidt**  
**Fredericia, Denmark**  
**toftmann@hotmail.com**

# 'Glades Are Ripe For Weston II

By Fred Grimm

The old assumption was that it all stopped at the dike. Developers might run amok through South Florida with their subdivisions and malls and strip shopping centers and office parks, but that great long earthen dike served not only to keep the Everglades waters on one side, but to contain suburban sprawl on the other.

The old assumption, however, didn't consider 52,338 acres in the central Everglades — ripe, as drooling land speculators say, for development. And 52,338 acres that might well be exempt from those pesky local and state building prohibitions.

Once, geography was enough of a detriment to keep developers from sniffing around the Big Cypress Reservation. The Seminole's great Everglades tract was, after all, South Florida's very definition for "middle of nowhere."

Except, lately, the "middle of nowhere" is more convenient to the National Car Rental Center than downtown Fort Lauderdale. And a much quicker ride to the Sawgrass Mills, the center of the new South Florida universe.

And, if developers don't like the view from Big Cypress, there's another 75,000 acres of South Florida Everglades belonging to the Miccosukee Tribe.

The old assumption was that the Indians might use a bit of their Everglades land for citrus or grazing or low-rent truck farms or air boat excursions. They could build a smoke shop and or a bingo hall or even a hotel along the highway. But the law would keep them from getting too greedy. They couldn't do to their land what the white interlopers did to theirs.

But it's not the dike that keeps developers from turning Big Cypress into a giant golfing community or a sprawling office park. It's Indian sensibilities. So far.

Kirke Kickingbird, a national authority on the legal ramifications of Indian sovereignty, suggested Monday, "The tribes could choose to develop or not to develop."

"One of the consequences of sovereignty is that the tribes have their own codes and zoning and building ordinances," said Kickingbird, who serves as special counsel for Indian affairs to the governor of Oklahoma. "It's not always understood by local government," he said.

Kickingbird noted that on the outskirts of Phoenix's suburban sprawl, which spread to the outskirts of the Gila River and the Salt River reservations, tribes responded with their own office parks and other development.

In South Florida, state and local governments — operating on the old assumption — might challenge notions of sovereignty. But the state and local government lawyers have compiled a courtroom record that recalls the Battle of Little Big Horn.

Consider the failed courtroom campaigns against the Seminole smoke shops in the 1970s and '80s. And the failed attempts to stop Indian bingo halls. Voters in Florida have three times rejected casino gambling, but the Seminoles have been undeterred. The latest gambling hall opened a few months ago in Coconut Creek, despite City Hall and the Florida attorney general.

But the Seminoles have this expanse of land not far from Weston, 52,338 acres no longer in the middle of nowhere, which would make a convincing negotiating ploy: Stop fighting us over our casinos, and we'll promise to keep developers on the east side of the dike — away from the Big Cypress.

— *Fred Grimm is a columnist for the Miami Herald. This is reprinted from the Oct. 10, edition.*

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# Community News



Many lots on Big Cypress were turned into water front property after recent storm.

## Reservation Land Values Triple!

**By Libby Blake**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — Land values tripled on the Big Cypress Reservation as most of the property became coveted waterfront lots during the recent deluge caused by sub-tropical storm Leslie. The storm, which formed Oct. 4 as a depression, dropped up to 20 inches of rain on some parts of the reservation.

Jones Grade Road was the hardest hit followed closely by the airport, which was inundated in at 18 inches, causing someone to suggest the Tribe consider buying a sea plane. The sandpit on North East Rim Ditch

recorded 14 inches, Huff Bridge Road at the E-6 Ditch had 12 inches, and Molly Pritchard Road measured in at 11 inches.

Linda Billie, Water Resources, wondered aloud, "I don't know why the Corp of Engineers is having such a hard time deciding how to restore the water flow to the Everglades when Mother Nature worked so well."

But B.C. residents should'nt spend their money too quick. Most of the water has been absorbed by the Everglades and your prime waterfront land will soon be no more.

## Off Road Vehicle Usage Restricted

Big Cypress National Preserve Superintendent John Donahue announced recently the Director of the National Park Service, Robert Stanton, has signed the Record of Decision on the Final Recreational Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan.

The purpose of the plan is to guide the National Park Service in its management of recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) use within Big Cypress National Preserve. The plan was called for and directed by the Preserve's General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and is required as a part of a litigation settlement. The plan addresses environmental degradation concerns including rutting, soil displacement, and ORV impacts on vegetation and wildlife habitat.

Some basic points of the plan include: restriction of ORV's to designated trails and access points, only 2000 ORV

permits available each year for \$50 each through a random drawing system, prairies permanently closed to ORV's — this includes Copeland, "Ochopee," Windmill, and Airplane prairies, Loop and Deep Lake management units will remain closed to ORV use, and the area south of Wagonwheel Road and Zone 1 of the Stairsteps unit will be closed to the closures.

The southeastern portion of Zone 4 of the Stairsteps unit will be closed for Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow nesting habitat. Zones 2 and 3 of Stairsteps will be closed until trails are designated. Monitoring, restoration and research activities will be implemented.

Effective Oct. 23, the plan will be implemented. All ORV users of the Preserve will be notified of closures and restrictions by letter, signs and handout information available at the visitor center and access points.

## Community Celebrates Pee Wee Mercer Day

**By Tommy Benn**  
**WILLISTON** — They came from all over the state and beyond Sept. 16, a day to honor Glen "Pee Wee" Mercer, the one time world class bull rider turned author.

Mercer, 25, showing his characteristic courage, heart and determination, greeted everyone in his own special way at the reception at the Family Life Center of the First Baptist Church where it was standing room only for Williston's own.

Mercer's bull riding career ended Nov. 11, 1995, in a freak accident at the Southeastern Circuit Finals held at the Fred Smith Arena on the Seminole Tribe's Brighton Reservation.

While trying to dismount after a completed ride, his leg got hung up in his bull rope. Mercer was driven head-first into the ground. The force broke his neck and severed his spinal cord leaving him paralyzed from the neck down. The bull was called V-8, and Mercer's final ride scored a 75.

With one career over, it took Pee Wee a while to find his way to another path — author. It began when Patrick Smith, author of *A Land Remembered* came to Williston as guest speaker for the Williston Friends of the Library.

Michelle Traylor and Candice Anderson, who work at the Library, had read the Smith novel to Pee Wee during his rehabilitation. They asked Smith if he could spare the time to meet the young Mercer. It was this chance meeting that led to the writing of Mercer's and Smith's co-authored *The Last Ride*. The writing and re-writing took 21 months from start to the publisher release date, Sept. 16.

To write the book, Mercer would speak into his voice activated computer "Max," then e-mail his writing to Smith's daughter Janie (as Smith doesn't own a computer). She would download the information for her father to edit. Then she would retype the work on her computer and e-mail everything back to Mercer for his approval.

"If I felt I wasn't getting enough work from Pee Wee, I would drive to Williston and we would have a conference," laughed Smith at the celebration.

"You'd be surprised after one of these little visits how much e-mail I'd receive from Pee Wee," quipped Janie Smith.

The Williston Friends of the Public Library, and the Williston Area Chamber of Commerce sponsored the reception. President of the Friends of the

Library, Bill Parkhurst, welcomed guests.

"Life is a series of stories," Parkhurst began. "We all write our own stories. And the best stories come from the heart. Today what we see is the heart-felt ability of a city to reach out to one of its citizens."

Williston's Mayor Al Williamson read a town proclamation that declared Sept. 16, Glen "Pee Wee" Mercer Day. "I think this is one of the greatest towns you can be associated with, and you showed it today," Williamson said.

Ben Hill Griffin III, president and CEO of the Ben Hill Griffin Company, compared Pee Wee to the University of Florida Fighting Gators.

"Like them, Pee-Wee is a competitor," Griffen said. "It's born in you. You've got it. You know it when you look at Pee Wee's life, what he accomplished. He's a competitor. He was fantastic in bull riding, and look today, he is fantastic in co-authoring *The Last Ride*."

Griffen presented Pee Wee a signed cap from head football coach Steve Spurrier. Then with the help of Sen. Rick Dantzler, he presented a head from a 12 foot alligator taken off Griffen's Arcadia ranch.

Dr. James Harvey, Central Florida Community College (CCFC) provost, then conferred an honorary associates of arts degree on Mercer. In the 42-year history of CCFC, it is only the fifth to be presented from the college.

Karen Butts and other members of Pee Wee's 1988 graduating class at Williston High School were on hand to award a special tribute to their classmate.

Levi Kuhn was introduced and was overcome with emotion. Pee Wee and Kuhn have been friends for over 15 years, and attended many rodeos together.

"It took me over five months to get the courage up to visit Pee Wee the first time after the accident," stated Kuhn. "I was scared to death to see someone in a wheel chair."

"But, Pee Wee's been an inspiration to me and he'll be an inspiration to you if you get to know him," said Kuhn.

It was Kuhn, who with Jerry Byfield and many other friends, helped organize benefit rodeos for Mercer for the past five years. The next benefit rodeo will be held Jan. 26-27, 2001, at the Williston Horsemen's Park. At the park, an 11-foot painting of Pee Wee riding a bull by local artist George Morris

has been placed on display.

Bill Parkhurst then introduced Smith, who has been nominated for a Nobel and Pulitzer Prize. In 1999 he was elected to the Florida Artist Hall of Fame.

"It takes eight seconds on a bull to have a successful ride" Smith said. "It's been one week short of 21 months for Pee Wee and me to ride this bull [write the book]. There were times we didn't think we would make it, when that old bull started bucking and kicking and spinning and we held on."

"When I had this idea for Pee Wee Mercer Day I didn't know if I would be met with enthusiasm or ridden out of town on a rail. It took the efforts of so many organizations to make it happen. And thanks to all these wonderful organizations and hard working people it has turned out to be a great day for all concerned."

Smith presented Pee Wee with a framed letter from Sen. Bob Graham, encouraging Pee Wee to continue writing. He also included autographed photographs of some of Pee Wee's favorite singers, including George Strait, Mel Tillis, Jimmy Buffet, Willie Nelson, Randy Travis, Alabama, and Howard and David Bellamy. The last presentation was a watercolor painting of Pee Wee by Elton Lux of Keansville.

After Smith finished, Parkhurst introduced the guest of honor, who was greeted with a standing ovation. Pee Wee first acknowledged his parents, Helen and Howard Mercer, Patrick Smith and publisher Jim Culberson, then thanked the audience for coming to support him.


Afterwards music, organized by Frank and Ann Thomas, followed at he Devil's Den outside Williston. The performers — Gilbert Handcock, The Ashley Gang, Ken and Leigh Skeens, Mark Smith, Crab Grass Cowboys, Steve Blackwell, Jerry Mincey, Stan Geberer and Patchwork — came without pay and even paid their own expenses. The sound equipment was donated by Dale Webber.

"I believe Pee Wee is the happiest today that I have ever seen him in two years," Smith said. "When I first meet him back in 1997, before he got his computer, all he could do was lie in the bed and stare at the ceiling. He was in a pretty deep depression."

"He has totally changed. This was one of the highlights of his life. It's a day he and his mother and his dad will never forget."

Donna Reynolds

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# Fort Micanopy: Post Honored Peaceful Indian Leader Who Destroyed Major Dade

**By Vida Volkert**  
*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.*

**MICANOPY** — On the morning of Dec. 28, 1835, the Seminole Indian head chief Micanopy woke up earlier than other days and rode his horse in the direction of Fort King, a wooden fort situated in present day Ocala.

This time, however, Micanopy did not take the King Road – a 100-mile military road connecting Fort King and Fort Brooke on Tampa Bay. Instead, the chief took a hidden Indian trail that was covered with bushes and trees, and ran parallel to the King Road. As he was approaching the fort – about 15 miles away – he suddenly stopped.

Hidden in the heavy wilderness along the road, Micanopy's sub-chiefs Jumper and Alligator and a force estimated at over 400 Seminole Indian warriors were strategically posted, silently waiting for their leader. As Micanopy dismounted, his sub-chiefs came to his side.

Not far from the Seminoles' hidden post, a relief column of more than 100 U.S. Army regulars led by Major Francis Dade was enroute to Fort King. Micanopy, who was inclined to peace rather than violence, conferred with the sub-chiefs and discussed the options before them; either to attack the relief column or to let it pass.

The sub-chiefs were confident in their ability to fight and urged their Chief not to wait any longer. They suggested an immediate attack of Dade's column. The army men for their part were advancing along the Fort King Road without precautions. They were well trained and well equipped militarily men. They had a six-pound cannon, horses, rifles and plenty of ammunition. They did not fear the Indians.

Micanopy's advisors insisted this was the moment they had waited for since the U.S. government started enforcing Indian removal from the Florida territory in the early 1820s.

Despite his counselors' advice Micanopy was still dubious. His military leader, the young and rebellious Osceola, was not there yet. As part of a plan the Seminole Indians had been machinating for over a year, Osceola had gone to Fort King with a band of warriors to annihilate the Indian agent Willie Thompson. Once that was accomplished, Osceola was expected to join Micanopy's force in the attack of the relief column. But the sun was raising high and there were no signs of Osceola.

Micanopy could not wait any longer. As the soldiers got closer to the point of the Indian ambush, he ordered the attack. By four o'clock in the afternoon not a white man was left standing. Only one soldier from the 111-member force ever made it back to tell the story.

The remainder of the column was wiped out and Major Dade's defeat became the U.S. Army's second defeat at the hands of the American Indians, says Neill Macaulay, and the third worst in history. A retired history professor from the University of Florida, Macaulay has written many books on Latin America, politics and military history.

"That battle known inaccurately as Dade's Massacre, was only the second time the U.S. Army was ever defeated by American Indians in a battle," says Macaulay.

"The first was Chief Little Turtle's victory over the U.S. Army on the Maumee River in the fall of 1791. Gen. Arthur St. Clair led 2,000 troops, which included the entire U.S. regular army, north from the Ohio River. They established a fortified camp on the Maumee River near the border of the present states of Ohio and Indiana.

"They were attacked by a large group of Indians, mostly Shawnees, led by Chief Little Turtle, on Nov. 4, 1791. The whites were routed and pursued for several days by the Indians along the Maumee. St. Clair lost more than 200 killed and about 700 wounded.

"It was probably the worse defeat ever suffered by the U.S. Army at the hands of North American Indians. Custer may have lost a few more killed at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1876, but his force was much smaller than St. Clair's.

"Dade lost 110 in his battle with Chief Micanopy near the Wahoo Swamp in 1835, which makes it the third worst defeat suffered by the U.S. regular army at the hands of American Indian forces. It was Micanopy's major accomplishment because he commanded it."

Micanopy's second major accomplishment, suggests Macaulay, is his legacy.

Although the warrior Chief was captured under a flag of truce and removed from the Peninsula in December 1837 – two years after Dade's Battle – the people of the district immortalized him. On April 30, 1837, several months before Micanopy's capture, a wooden fort was erected in what is now Alachua County, just southeast of Gainesville.

This military fort was erected to protect the white settlers from the Seminole Indians and was named after the warrior chief Micanopy. Macaulay says Fort Micanopy was established near where Fort Defiance had been located.

"Fort Defiance was another military fort built in April 1835 to protect the surrounding areas," says Raney.

Several battles and skirmishes were fought in this area throughout the Second Seminole War, many along the road from Micanopy to Wacahoota, which was called the "bloodiest road in Florida," according to Macaulay.

On July 19, 1836, as the army was on route to Fort Jackson, Osceola and 200 warriors opened fire. The soldiers were badly outnumbered until reinforcements arrived from Fort Defiance. Five soldiers were killed and six were wounded in this battle which is known as the Battle of Welika Pond. Indian casualties are not known.

Prior to the Battle of Welika Pond, Osceola had already conducted another bloody offensive in the area. On Dec. 18, 1835, along the rim of the Alachua Savannah, about 80 Indians led by Osceola ambushed and captured a wagon containing the baggage of Col. John Warren of Jacksonville.

When 30 soldiers led by Major John McLeMore tried to charge the Indians, they were forced back. Six of McLeMore's men were killed and eight were wounded. This fight is known as the Battle of Black Point. Macaulay argues that the Battle of Black Point is actually the first battle of the Second



Fort Micanopy, as drawn by Tom Brady, depicts the fort named in honor of the man who led the Indian forces which wiped out Major Dade's command.

Seminole War, even though Dade's Battle is referred as such.

Fort Micanopy, however, saw little action during the Second Seminole War (1835 – 1842) compared to other forts, including Fort Defiance, its predecessor. But it became an important supply depot, military hospital, and rallying point for expeditions against the Seminoles.

The Army burned Fort Defiance in 1836 in an effort to eradicate an outbreak of tropical fever. Fort Micanopy was built to replace Fort Defiance. But Fort Micanopy fell apart after the war ended (1842) and the remnants were used by the settlers to erect houses.

Micanopy's legacy, however, did not fall apart with his removal from Florida or the loss of the fort bearing his name. His memory remained intact, as the community around the fort became known as Micanopy.



MICANOPY: George Catlin portrait shows the man who led his warriors in the third worst defeat of U.S. military forces by Indians.

Nowadays, over 150 years have passed and the town originally established within Fort Micanopy's range continues to be named Micanopy, in honor of the great Seminole warrior chief.

Raney Barbara, a member of the Historical Society of Micanopy, says Chief Micanopy's heritage in Florida can be traced as far back as the mid 1700s, when Micanopy's grandfather, Chief Cowkeeper, settled with his band in what is known today as Alachua County.

"The area [Alachua] had plenty of deer and fish. It was good for hunting and fishing," she said. "The Indians had a big village here under Chief Cowkeeper."

Cowkeeper and his band, says Raney, were the first Creek Indians to establish a permanent presence in the Alachua area. The area consists of a large prairie reminiscent of a savanna. In fact, the first white settlers called it the "Alachua Savanna." The Alachua Savanna was very rich and fertile and attracted Indians as much as whites.

In 1774, explorer and naturalist William Bartram visited this area. In his journal *Travels*, Bartram described the Alachua Savanna as a "level, green plain, above fifteen miles over, fifty miles in circumference, and scarcely a tree or bush of any kind to be seen on it. It is encircled with high, sloping hills, covered with waving forests and fragrant Orange groves, rising from an exuberantly fertile soil."

"At the same time are seen innumerable droves of cattle; the lordly bull, lowing cow and sleek capricious heifer. The hills and groves re-echo their cheerful, social voices. Herds of sprightly deer, squadrons of the beautiful, fleet seminoe horse, flocks of turkeys, civilized communities of the sonorous, watchful crane, mix together, appearing happy and contented in the enjoyment of peace . . ."

Bartram's descriptions of the Alachua are perhaps the earliest accounts. According to University of Florida emeritus professor of history, John Mahon. Mahon, author of *History of the Second Seminole War 1835 – 1842*, says the Creek Indians migrated to Florida after the English founded Georgia in 1732. Cowkeeper and his band were part of the Creeks who migrated to Florida. They were known as the Oconee Indian band because " . . . this Tribe once lived on the Oconee River in central Georgia."

While Cowkeeper's band settled in the Alachua district between 1739 and 1750, another band of Creek Indians, according to Mahon, "settled in the old Apalachee territory. Among those was a band led by Secoffee." But while Secoffee and his people favored the Spaniards, Cowkeeper and his Oconee were inclined to the English.

It was this difference in preferences that made the Indians divide into bands rather than stick together as a tribe, explains Mahon.

Macaulay, who volunteers at the Micanopy Historical Society Museum, says Cowkeeper's band followed the traditions of the Creeks in that their society was a matriarchal society.

"A man was a member of his mother's clan and the chief followed a line of hereditary on the mother's line," said Macaulay.

In his *Travels*, William Bartram also wrote about the Indian chief Cowkeeper and his village. Bartram had the opportunity to visit the village, which was situated in the middle of the Alachua Savanna.

"We were welcomed to the town, and conducted by the young men and maidens to the chief's house," recorded Bartram.

Chief Cowkeeper's house "stood on an eminence, and was distinguished from the rest by its superior magnitude, a large flag being hoisted on a high staff at one corner. We immediately alighted' the chief. . . attended by several ancient men, came to us, and in a very free and sociable manner shook our hands (or rather arms) a form of salutation peculiar to the American Indians . . ."

Bartram described Cowkeeper as a "tall well made man, very affable and cheerful, about sixty years of age, his eyes lively and full of fire, his countenance manly and placid, yet ferocious, or what we call savage, his nose aquiline, his dress extremely simple, but his head trimmed and ornamented in the true Creek mode."

Cowkeeper, whose Indian name is Ahaya, is considered the first Seminole Indian Chief because most historians believe the Seminole Indians of Florida are descendants of the Cowkeeper band.

However, historian Patricia Wickman, director of the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Department of Anthropology & Genealogy, argues the modern Seminole Indians of Florida are a blend of different tribes, including the original aborigines of Florida.

According to Wickman's theory, Cowkeeper would not be the first Seminole Indian Chief, but the first Indian Chief in Florida to be referred to as a Seminole. Every head Chief of the Seminoles until their removal, however, was a descendant of Cowkeeper from the female line, says Macaulay.

"When Cowkeeper died he was succeeded by King Payne, probably his sisters' elder son," says Macaulay. "King Payne became the ruler of the Alachua district until he was killed in 1813 while fighting against the forces of Daniel Newnan, a leader of slave catchers from Georgia."

It was Newnan whose name was attached to Lake Newnan in Alachua County, which was recently the scene of a major controversy when dead head loggers destroyed ancient Indian canoes. (See the Sept. 8 edition of the *Seminole Tribune* and elsewhere in this issue.)

"The Seminoles provided refugee to the runaway slaves," explains Macaulay. "The area Payne inhabited is known today as the Payne's Prairie State Preserve, located 10 miles south of Gainesville on U.S. 441, near Micanopy."

The Payne's Prairie State Preserve is a 21,000-acre unit of the Florida Park Service. This

area is a National Natural Landmark and has a reputation for its abundance and diversity of wildlife.

After King Payne's death, Chief Bowlegs, probably Payne's brother, became the Seminole Tribe's head chief.

" . . . only until Micanopy came of age," says Macaulay.

Following the tradition of a matriarchal society, Micanopy became chief of the Seminoles because he was King Payne's nephew and the oldest son of King Payne's oldest sister.

"The reason why the Creeks and the Seminoles believed in the matriarchal society," explains Macaulay, is because the heritage of a child was clear and evident coming from a woman, but not when coming from a man. A woman can perfectly claim a son and prove her maternity because she is the one carrying it for nine months and giving birth to the baby. At that time, it was obviously difficult for a man to prove his child's legitimacy.

"Chief Micanopy was a peaceful man," says Macaulay. "Before Dade's Battle he had agreed to a peace treaty with the government, but he was double-crossed"

Macaulay explains that in accordance with the peace treaty the government made several promises to the Indians, including establishing a reservation in Florida. But the government did not keep the promises and began using trickery to remove the Indians from Florida.

And trickery was used to capture the warrior chief when in December 1837, he was induced to come to Fort Mellon in today's Sanford to conduct the peace negotiations with the U.S. Government.

For this purpose the U.S. Government had made arrangements to send a delegation comprised of Cherokee leaders into Indian territory. The Cherokee leaders, believing in the U.S. government's good faith, agreed to serve as mediators and went into Indian country in search of Micanopy. The delegation met the Indian Chief and persuaded him to bring his people to Fort Mellon.

In early December 1837, the delegation accompanied by Micanopy, Nacoolochee, and 11 sub-chiefs including Tuskegee and Yohola and some warriors set out for Fort Mellon, where they were captured under the flag of truce and taken to Fort Marion.

On Dec. 14 1837, 72 Indians – women, children, and blacks plus the Seminole Head Chief Micanopy, Coa Hadjo and 30 fighting men – were removed on the steamboat Santee for St. Augustine. That was Micanopy's last winter in Florida.

"Chief Micanopy is our town hero," says Macaulay, referring to the 600 people living in the town of Micanopy. "We identify with Micanopy and the people here before us," said Macaulay, who has been a resident of Micanopy since 1967. "That's why we would like to bring his [Micanopy's] body to our town."

Micanopy died in Oklahoma of natural causes. He body was buried in Fort Gibson in the late 1840s. But his soul still lives in the prairies of the Alachua region, his and his ancestor's native land.

In 1996 the town of Micanopy was awarded a historic preservation grant to conduct research in the historic areas. The Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc. was hired to conduct an archaeological excavation on the property associated with the site of Fort Defiance and Fort Micanopy. Throughout the archaeological dig musket balls, pipe stems, bottle glass, military buttons, buckles, a powder flask, gun-flints, and other historic artifacts were recovered. But the exact location of Fort Micanopy was not discovered.

"They thought they had found the fort but apparently they did not," says Macaulay.

Examples of Seminole pottery were discovered in the site as well as prehistoric artifacts dating to 1500 BC. As a result of this project, this site was found to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information on the Payne's Prairie National Reserve, go on line to <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/parks>.

For more information on the history of Micanopy, contact the Micanopy Historical Society Museum. The museum is located in a small park at the intersection of highways 441 and 234, on Chokolka Blvd.

If you come from I-75, get off on Exit 73, follow the signs to Micanopy. You'll dead-end on Chokolka Blvd. Take a left at the end and you'll find the museum two blocks away. The museum is open every day, including weekends, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The telephone number is (352) 466-3200.

**Next: Fort Drum.**



# Conventional Mortgage Loans To Native Americans Rise 59%

The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) has released 1999 data on home mortgage lending showing a 59 percent jump in conventional mortgages made to Native Americans over the previous year and the largest single increase in the category of minority borrowers.

The FFEIC has collected and published statistics from banks, savings and loans, mortgage companies and other lending institutions that are subject to the provisions of the federal Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) since 1992.

"This shows some progress is being made, but we still have a long way to go," said National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Chairman Chester Carl.

"Mortgage lenders are only beginning to see that making loans to Native Americans, both on and off tribal lands, is good business for them."

Christopher D. Boesen, NAIHC Executive Director, says industry experts estimate there are 38,000 qualified homebuyers in Indian Country waiting for the

opportunity for homeownership.

"Despite the good news, the need for home loans in Indian Country remains immense," said Boesen. NAIHC estimates there is an immediate need for 200,000 housing units in Indian country.

Though many tribes face chronic overcrowding and a lack of both rental units and permanent homes, each tribal housing authority has unique needs, which must be addressed in any mortgage partnership. Several tribes have been actively working with local banks and large mortgage guarantors, such as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to deal with the specific mortgage needs of their tribe.

The Seminole Tribe of Florida, the first tribe to build and operate its own hotel, has had success utilizing conventional lending sources. Their extensive housing department includes a construction company that has long-range plans for building many more homes, as well as community facilities, on Tribal lands.

The Oneida Nation of New York has been working with Key Bank and Fannie Mae to set

up a conventional mortgage program for tribal members, and has developed 27 new home sites in their Village of the White Pines. The Nation plans to develop an additional 38 home sites in the Village. Additionally, lots on other lands reacquired by the Nation are now available for new home sites.

The Rosebud Sioux Tribe of South Dakota is among tribes utilizing government insured mortgage products. With 200-300 families waiting for homeownership, the Rosebud Sioux have developed a unique housing program for their tribe, but one that does not utilize conventional mortgage loans.

Their overall plan includes credit counseling and partners the Rosebud Housing Authority (also known as the Sicangu Awanyakape Corporation), the Sicangu Enterprise Center, which is a tribal nonprofit organization, and private lending sources to offer federal housing loans, including Section 184 loans, USDA Rural Housing Service loans, and Veteran's Administration Direct loans.

## Betty Mae

Continued from page 1

But, all the rain got me to thinking about using to be in the old days when I lived on the Dania (today known as Hollywood) Reservation. Back then, living with water was a common thing. We made the best of it.

When I was young, and it rained, the water would be knee high where the Tribe's office building is located now. At the 7-11, the water would be up to your knees. People used to travel by boats.

I remember when it would rain and the water would be up and over Stirling Road. We used to wait for the water to go back and then go out and find fish on the road. Bream and catfish. We'd pick them up and take them home to eat.

Us kids would play around and hunt custard apples in the canals. We would borrow some of the Tommie men's boats - Brownie and Frank and a couple of others I can't remember. We would take the canoes and paddle in the canals to find the custard apples.

When it rained hard, the canoes were fun to play in. The rain was always nice when you were sleeping under a chickee. Even though the huts were open, the chickees had a raised platform where we would sleep. They were very warm. It was always nice to be snuggled in your blankets while the rain was falling. It was very pleasant.

And, another thing about the rain, we

would use the water for washing. The rain would come off the roof of the chickee. We would sham-poo and use soap and take a shower under the rain-water. We also would put out big pails to catch the rainwater for washing clothes.

But, there was also danger. Lightning killed my grandfather, Tom Tiger, my mother's father. He was outside building a canoe when he was struck. He's the only Indian I ever knew who got killed by lightning.

My mother was the first Indian to purchase a car. It was a Model T, which was open on the sides. Whenever it would rain, she wouldn't drive. If she were out, she'd find a place at a filling station to get under until it would stop raining. If she couldn't wait, she had a couple of pieces of canvas to put over the openings.

But, generally, we wouldn't go out in the rain. The fire would be going in the cooking chickee, and sometimes you would have to run quickly from the sleeping chickee to the cooking chickee. When it was raining hard, we would eat under the cooking chickee.

If it rained for a long time, us kids would all be put under a big chickee. We would play games, and tell stories. And, we would make dolls out of scraps of cloth and buttons. The boys would be chasing bugs and things.

Overall, I guess we're much better off today than we were in the old days. But, seeing that water at Big Shot's made me realize, you can't argue with Mother Nature. Even today, when it rains, you're going to get wet!

# Alligators Take Bite Of Internet

The American alligator has come a long way since the 1980s. they are off the endangered species list, thanks to conservation efforts yielding positive results, and are a renewable resource. Florida estimates there are approximately one million alligators in the Everglades alone. On occasion, tourists have seen alligators on highways throughout the southeast, but now you can see them on the information highway - the internet.

If it's innovative, creative and delicious insights you want on American alligator, you'll find it at the American alligator web site, [www.fl-alligator.com](http://www.fl-alligator.com). The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services invites you to take a look at what this site has to offer. There's valuable information on farming alligators - an overview of the history of

American alligators, how the American alligator became a renewable resource and other vital statistics. If you want to know how to prepare and cook alligator meat or you're interested in the nutritional aspects, click on "Alligators in the Kitchen."

Buyers, designers, manufacturers and product development personnel can access a supplier list of meat, skins and product producers on the "Florida Alligator Product Suppliers" page. For current, up-to-date information on what's happening in the wonderful world of alligators, call up the news releases or promotional pages on this site.

For additional information on the American alligator, contact Catherine Sanford at (850) 488-0163 or e-mail [sanforced@doacs.state.fl.us](mailto:sanforced@doacs.state.fl.us).

## Board Signs Deal With SeaEscape

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners approved an agreement today, Oct. 3, for SeaEscape Entertainment to operate daily cruises from Port Everglades for the next 10 years.

"This agreement guarantees the continuous use of our cruise facilities and consistent revenues for an extended period of time," says Port Director Paul DeMariano. "We have enjoyed a long relationship with SeaEscape and are confident that the cruise line will continue to prosper at Port Everglades."

SeaEscape, which operates daily "cruises to no where," has operated vessels from Port Everglades since 1987. More than 6 million passengers have sailed with SeaEscape during that time, which has generated approximately \$12.1 million in revenues for the seaport.

"We are very pleased to have concluded an agreement which provides SeaEscape with the stability and protection we had been seeking," says SeaEscape Chairman/CEO C. Dean Hofmeister. "Additionally, we are very encouraged to continue as a partner with the port and to be involved in Broward County's long-range plan for development of Port Everglades."

Garnering a reputation as one of the world's finest cruise ports, Port Everglades handles in excess of two million passenger moves a year with more than 1,550 cruise ship calls. The diverse seaport, located in Greater Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood, is expecting continued growth in its cruise business with the addition of seven new ships during the 2000/2001 cruise season and projections of 2.7 million passengers in fiscal year 2000 and 3.1 million passengers in fiscal year 2001.

## Seminole Foster Care Parents Needed

**HOLLYWOOD** — There is a certain pride, dignity and feeling of belonging among Native children who grow up in the tradition of their Tribal culture. The gift and right of tradition for Seminole children is important for their culture to survive. Some Seminole children in need of foster care are denied that gift.

Sometimes, due to child abuse or neglect, children need to be placed with families other than their own. One of the goals of the Family Services Program is to place Indian children with Indian families, so that they can remain among Tribal members in their own community/reservation.

Each reservation houses numerous Tribal members who are raising strong and healthy children, rich in cultural beliefs and traditional values. Some of these families have opened their doors and hearts to

other children in need of their strength and guidance, and given these traditions the chance to share in the traditions of the Tribe. It is a lot to ask, but remember how the elders have taught us to give back some of our knowledge and strength of caring, to stand firm in what we believe in, to help one another. The love for our people has been rekindled.

This can be the most meaningful and rewarding contribution you could ever make!

Please call now. Family Service Programs - Hollywood at 954-964-6338; Yvonne Courtney is the Tribal counselor. Big Cypress call 863-983-6920 and speak with Jane Billie. Brighton Reservation call Emma Johns at 863-763-7700. Immokalee ask for Billie Napper-Bodway at 941-657-6567. Tampa reservation call 813-628-0627 and speak with Tom Ryan, counselor.

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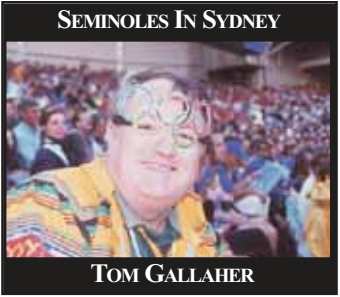
# Seminoles In Sydney

Visitors from all over the world got a taste of Seminole history and culture at the Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. The Seminole Tribe of Florida was the major sponsor of the Florida World Pavilion, a project of the Florida Department of State to promote cultural, trade and tourism opportunities for Florida. The 6,000 square feet Pavilion was open from Sept. 8 through Oct. 8 at Darling Harbour, home to six Olympic sports.

"The 2000 Games offer Florida an incredible opportunity to promote cultural, tourism, and trade opportunities while the eyes of the world are on Sydney," said

pins and information about Seminole tourism. Brochures were also given out on Greater Fort Lauderdale and "Visit Florida" tourism.

Another highlight was when Cypress and Tiger, along with Jo-Lin Osceola, Manager of the Coconut Creek Casino, and Tom Gallaher, Development Coordinator of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, visited the Aboriginal Tent Embassy at Victoria Park. Embassy coordinator Isabell Coe said the aim of the embassy was to tell Olympics visitors and media about the oppression of Australia's indigenous people.



John Steven Akhwari and Tom Gallaher.

Secretary of State Kathleen Harris. "It will benefit all of Florida to have journalists and visitors from across the globe as our guests at the Florida World Pavilion."

Florida was the only state to have a pavilion at the Olympics, and the Seminoles were the only American Indian tribe represented.

The grand opening of the pavilion featured a cultural exchange between Australia's indigenous people, the Aborigines, and the Florida Seminoles, represented by Billy Cypress, Executive Director of Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Lee Tiger, Seminole tourism representative, and Vanessa Frank from the *Seminole Tribune*.

Harris and Sydney Deputy Lord Mayor Lucy Turnbull gave welcoming remarks, followed by Gadigal spokesman Allen Madden.

"We want to welcome our brothers from Florida to Gadigal Country," said Madden. "The Seminoles' history is a mirror image of aboriginal history." The land on which the pavilion stands once belonged to the Aborigine Gadigal clan. "This was, is and always will be Gadigal land," added Madden.

"I think there is quite a wonderful resonance in the meeting between these two tribes," said Turnbull. An interesting coincidence is that the Aborigine flag is made up of three colors found in the Seminole flag — red, yellow and black.

The Seminoles presented Allen with a beautiful patchwork jacket, and a peace pipe carved by Tiger's father, Buffalo Tiger. The Gadigals presented the Seminoles with a porcelain emu egg, clap sticks used in traditional song and dance, and boomerangs made in Alice Springs more than 40 years ago.

"These ones do come back," joked Madden. "You'll go black in the face trying to throw these away."

Allen's brother Charles and nephew



Tom Gallaher, Jo-Lin Osceola, Billy Cypress, at Aboriginal "Tent City" with Isabell Coe, Tent City Coordinator.

Lee, who was Entertainment Manager of Village Operations during the Olympics, also represented the Gadigal clan. The Seminoles and Gadigals placed their handprints on bark to further commemorate the historic meeting.

Tiger and Cypress were impressed by the hospitality of the Maddens and other Aborigines. "They took us in and showed us around," said Tiger. "They made us feel special as a North American tribe visiting Australia."

At the entrance of the Pavilion, the walls were painted with a beautiful scene of a Seminole canoeing through the Everglades. Visitors took a virtual ride in an "airboat" as they watched a video of the Everglades and listened to the songs of Chairman James E. Billie. A map entitled "Seminoles Yesterday" pointed out Seminole towns from the past, and "Seminoles Today" included the six reservations and the corresponding events, tourist attractions and casinos.

Copy panels included the history of the Florida Seminoles. Many visitors stopped and talked to Seminole representatives at the chickee display. Comments ranged from, "I didn't know there were Indians in Florida," to "Ah yes, the unconquered Seminole Indians."

Visitors received special Seminole



Lee Tiger, Seminole tourism development coordinator, Billy Cypress, director of the Seminole Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki museum, and Allen Madden, of the Gadigal Aboriginal clan, left their handprints in paint on pieces of bark during a cultural exchange as part of the Florida World Pavilion's grand opening on Monday, Sept. 18.

Richard Walley, friend of Seminole Chairman James Billie and Chairman of the Australia Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Arts Board.

After welcoming the Seminoles and other attendees in his native language, Walley and the panel discussed key arts issues for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia. A Seminole jacket was presented to Walley and to Stephen Page, artistic director of the renowned Bangarra Dance Theater. Page is director and choreographer of "Skin," an Aboriginal dance/drama that premiered at the Sydney Opera House during the Olympics. He also was artistic director of the indigenous segment of the opening ceremony at the Olympics.

Commercial Specialist Monique Roos



Nathan Gowen stands atop bridge -- a popular tourist event.



Cultural Exchange participants show hand print bark pieces.

Sydney Opera House, which incurred numerous delays and huge cost overruns, was financed by a lottery. In this regard, Osceola toured one of the gaming "clubs" in Sydney.

She met with Greg Levett, Assistant General Manager of Canterbury Bankstown Leagues Club, one of Sydney's most popular clubs. They discussed the similarities and requirements of operating a major gaming operation. "There are certainly a lot of similarities between the Australian operations and ours," said Osceola. "It was interesting to see that Sydney's clubs are very conscientious in generating revenue which is put back into the community, much as we do back home."

The pavilion was adjacent to the Sydney Media Centre, where 5,000 media representatives attended press conferences and worked on deadlines.

One press conference was hosted by

represented the U.S. Commercial Department at the pavilion. Roos provided statistics on tourism to the U.S. Terry Oomens, Chairman of the Visit USA Committee for Australia, met with Tiger and discussed how to promote Australia tourism to Florida. They also discussed the four-city Visit USA Tourism Seminars held in Australia each February, and a possible "fam" tour of the Seminole tourist attractions by Australia tour operators and journalists in November.

Around 35 volunteers, mostly journalism and public relations students from various Florida universities, worked at the pavilion. A big help at the Seminole exhibit were Alex Goodman, Julie Linander, Dana Littlefield, Nitin Patel, Greg Sheaffer, and Leah Smith. Littlefield, Patel, and Sheaffer were also journalists working for newspapers and radio stations, and provided articles for *The Florida Pavilion* newsletter.

According to Cindy O'Connell, Managing Director of BSMG Worldwide and project manager for the pavilion, the Olympics was a great opportunity to promote trade and cultural development with the many countries at the Olympics.

"The strongest benefit is the opportunity to build a strong economic link between Florida and Australia," she said. "It's the third most visited state in America by Australians."

For more information on the Florida World Pavilion, refer to [www.floridapavilion.com](http://www.floridapavilion.com).



Vanessa Frank hands out a tourist brochure to this visitor.



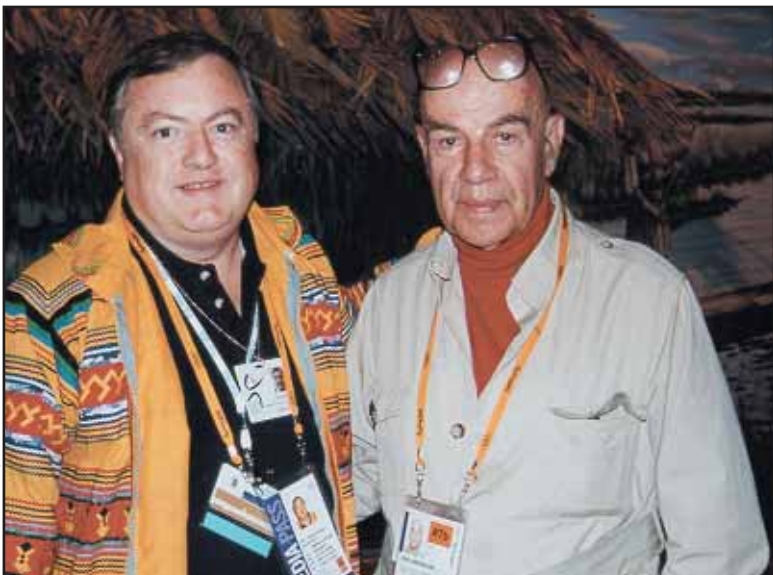
Billy Cypress with actress Justine Sanders.



Jo-Lin Osceola on the famous Greenpeace Ship.



Tom Gallaher, Lee Tiger, Monty Dwyer *Today Show* weatherman, Vanessa Frank, Billy Cypress.



Tom Gallaher with Bud Freenspan, Olympic documentarian.



SPORTS

SPD And Tampa Community  
Host Day Of Fun And Golf

By Gary Padgett  
TAMPA — The Fifth Annual SPD and Tampa Community Day and the Second Annual SPD and Tampa Community Golf Tournament were held Aug. 19. Forty-nine people participated in this years golf tournament, making it bigger and better than last year's. Joe Frank, Ramsey Harjo, John Fontana, and Bas Garcia won first place. Jahna Smith, Frankie Moore, Patty Bissett and Dan Harris took second place. Terrance, Angela Walton, Ed Boatwright and Brian Figley took third place. Allen Huff, April Baker, Mike Floyd and Russ Christianson came in forth.

Awards were given for Closest to the Pin to Jimmy Osceola Jr. for hole #2, Jahna Smith for holes #6 and #15, and to Joe Frank for hole #12. John Shykove, Tony Delpozzo and Powell Morris received the award for the Most Honest Score. At the Fifth Annual SPD and Tampa Community Day, Tina Smith won first place in Women's Horseshoes. Joanie Farmer came in second, Mayra Simmons third, and



Debbie Henry shows proper form while pitching a horse shoe.

April Baker fourth. Jimmy Osceola, Jr. won first place in Men's Horseshoes with Phillip Smith coming in second, Ramsey Harjo third and Keith Simmons fourth.

Carol Foret took first place in Women's 9-Ball with Tina Smith second, Colleen Henry third, and Mayra Simmons fourth. For the men, Jesse Jimmie won first place, Jimmy Osceola Jr second, Phillip Smith third, and Ramsey Harjo fourth.

The children had their own games and activities, which kept them busy throughout the day.

Richard Henry, Tampa Liaison, and the Tampa Community would like to thank those that helped to make these events possible: Council Representative Jack Smith, Jr, Board Representative Alex Johns, Stirling Howard, Four Points Sheraton and Tom Hernan and Mike Floyd, Seminole Police Department. A special thank you is also given to John Fontana and the Seminole Bingo for the golf shirts and T-shirts they provided.

Photos by: Colleen Henry and Linda Jane Henry



Linda Lee Storm pitching a horse shoe.



Tina Billie, shown here during the pole bending competition, was one of the few Tribal members to ride.

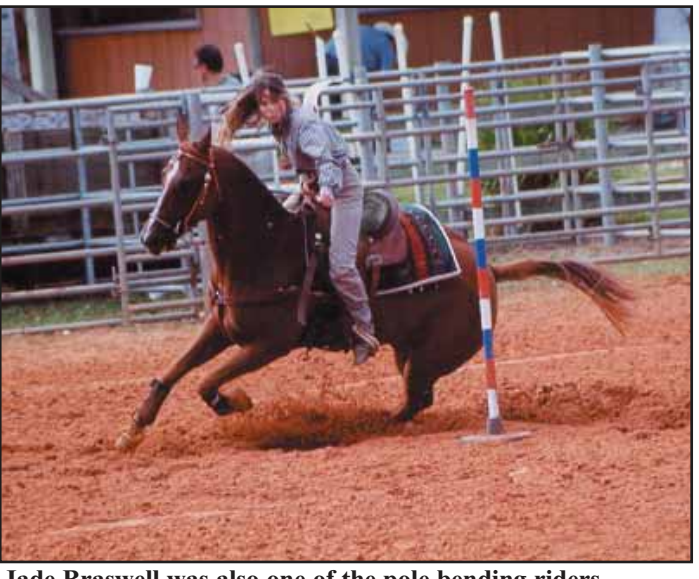
High School Rodeo Held In Big Cypress

By Benny Secody  
BIG CYPRESS — Cowboys and cowgirls from around the state met at the Big Cypress Rodeo Arena to compete in the second high school rodeo of the season on Sept. 30.

Many of the young riders were previous members of the FJRA who had graduated this past May and have since moved up to High School Rodeo.

Grand Entry signaled the start of the day's events with competition following the opening ceremonies. The various categories were bull riding, steer wrestling, bronc riding, bareback riding, pole bending, barrel racing and team roping. Calf roping and breakaway replaced the categories of the goat tie and steer undecorating, usually done in the junior rodeos.

Not many Seminole contestants were on hand for the competition due to other events conflicting with their schedules for the weekend. Jade Braswell, Tina Billie and Wilson Bowers were able to compete in their vari-



Jade Braswell was also one of the pole bending riders.

ous events, but did not place in the top ten for the day.

Elrod Bowers, Carlene Osceola  
Top Miccosukee Tournament

By B. Secody  
MICCOSUKEE — Elrod Bowers won the men's competition while Carlene Osceola topped the women's field at the second annual Miccosukee Pool Tournament held in the dome at the Miccosukee Hotel and Resort complex Sept. 30.

The tournament, coordinated by Terry Willie, brought players from five reservations to compete. The eight ball tournament was played by almost 70 participants — 50 men and 19 women.

The tournament stretched out the entire day, with the eight ball category ending at 6:30 p.m. Winners in the men's division of the eight-ball competition were Elrod Bowers — first place, Shane Buck — second place, David Cypress — third place, Roy Garza — fourth place, and Buck Wilson — fifth place.

Winners in the women's division of the eight-ball competition were Carlene Osceola — first place, Areka Buck — second place, Louise Jim — third —place, Patty Wilson — fourth place, and Laura Clay — fifth place.

Once the eight ball competition ended, players began the nine-ball competition with 36 men and 14 women competing.

Congratulations go out to Terry Willie for putting on a great tournament, and ensuring that all had a good day.



Moke Osceola of Hollywood lines up his shot.

Seminole Places At Buck-A-Rama

By Libby Blake  
FOXWOODS, Conn. — Quannah Bowers became the first Tribal member to place at the Buck-A-Rama held this year, Sept. 14 — 17 during the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe's Schemitzun 2000. Quannah placed 10th in Bareback Riding winning \$92.44. Other winners with event, score, and prize money were as follows:

Bareback Riding: 1st Go: 1st place — Wesley Janis and D.C. Holeman (tie), 73, \$1109.33; 3rd place — Kelvin Fox, 72, \$693.33; 4th place — Daniel Billy and Alex Cate (tie), 71, \$392.89; 6th place — Edison Roan, 77, \$277.33; 7th place — Jeremy Shed, 69, \$231.11; 8th place — Shawn Best and Trent Woolford (tie), 68, \$161.78; 10th place — Quannah Bowers, 67, \$92.44.

2nd Go: 1st place — D.C. Holeman, 78, \$1248.00; 2nd place — Jeremy Shed and Shawn Best

(tie), 77, \$832.00; 4th place — Trent Woolford, 76, \$462.22; 5th place — Guy Colombe, 75, \$323.56; 6th place — Wesley Janis, 74, \$277.33; 7th place — Shane Clifford, 73, \$231.11; 8th place — Kelvin Fox, Edison Roan, and Daniel Billy (tie), 72, \$138.66.

Short Go: 1st place — Jeremy Shed, 73, \$1848.89; 2nd place — D.C. Holeman, Shawn Best, Trent Woolford, and Kelvin Fox (tie), 72, \$693.33.

Bull Riding (combined totals from 1st, 2nd, and Short Go): 1st place — Myron Johnson, 234, \$3619.80; 2nd place — Smiley Sierra, 229, \$2775.18; 3rd place — Dave Best, 222, \$2051.22; 4th place — Jeremy Taylor, 149, \$1327.26; 5th place — Alfonso Francis, 147, \$844.62; 6th place — Collin Willier, 138, \$603.30; 7th place — Pokey Tonasket, 78, \$482.64; 8th place — (tie) Brad Fish and Lucas Hogue, 77, \$180.99.

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# Hollywood Incentive Awards Given

**By E. Bowers**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — Tribal youth and parents received recognition for their educational achievement at the Hollywood Incentive Awards, held Sept. 27 at the Galaxy Skating Rink.

Hollywood Councilman Max Osceola Jr., Steven Bowers, and Sally Tommie were on hand to pass out the awards to the young students.

**K5** — Tyler Baker, Hollywood Christian School — Certificates: Bible-A, Math-A, Phonics-B, Learning all 50 states & Field Day Ribbons — 1st and 2nd Places; Devin Billie, Hollywood Christian School — all A's and B's; Kristy Johns, Hollywood Christian School — Certificates: Bible-A, Math-B, Learning all 50 states & Outstanding Behavior; Victoria Lacey, Sheridan Hills Christian School — all A's and B's; Justine Osceola — all A's and B's; Trent Osceola, Hollywood Christian School — all A's and B's.

**1st Grade** — Cindi Adair, Paladin Academy — A average; Thunder Baker, Hollywood Christian School — Improved Grades; Eagle Billie, Hollywood Christian School — B average and Less than three days absent; Kendra Frank, American Heritage — all A's; Darryl Fuentes, Paladin Academy — A average; Jean Martis Frank, Driftwood Elementary- B average; Malcolm Lacey Jr., Sheridan Hills Christian School — all A's; Audrey Osceola, Paladin Academy — B average; Courtney Osceola, Sheridan Hills Christian School — A average, Perfect Attendance, Certificates: Citizenship, Honor Roll, Unselfishness, Commitment to Achievement in Physical Fitness for improved health and performance; Marissa Osceola, American Heritage — B average; Whitney Osceola, University Private School — A average; Catherine Jumper, — A average; Lorri Osceola, B average, Certificates: Reading, Math, Spelling, and Penmanship.

**2nd Grade** — Josie Ballentine, Driftwood Elementary School — Improved Grades; Mariah Buster, Hollywood Christian School — B average, Improved Grades, Honor roll certificate; Talena Castillo, Hollywood Christian School — B average, Honor roll certificate; Letitia Foster, Driftwood Elementary School — B average; Duelle Gore, Hollywood Christian School — B average; Samuel Christopher Hunter II, Driftwood Elementary School — Improved grades; Tony Micco, Beacon Hill School, B average; Jordan Osceola, Paladin Academy — B average; Miles Osceola, Hollywood Christian School — B average, Less than three days absent, Certificates: B Honor roll, Reading, Music, and Most Enthusiastic; Ravenne Osceola, Sheridan

Hills Christian School- B average; Ryan Osceola, University School/Nova- B average; Ryan Tiger, Driftwood Elementary- Improved Grades; Todd Tiger, Driftwood Elementary- B average; Shelli Osceola, Driftwood Elementary- A average, Perfect Attendance; Brandon Osceola,

Certificates: Reading, Spelling.  
**4th Grade** — Garrett Anderson, American Heritage — B average; Nicholas Dicarlos, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Robert Frank III, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Brianna Harjochee, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Robert North Jr., Ft. Lauderdale Prep — all A's; David Nelson, Ocala Elementary- B average, Less than three days absent; Damon Leon Pewo Jr., American Heritage — B average; Jack Turtle, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Krystle Young, American Heritage — B average, Certificate: Silver Honor Roll; Chelsea Mountain, B average.

**5th Grade** — Gustavus Baker, Hollywood Christian — Improved Grades; Zachary Battiest, Hollywood Christian — Improved Grades; Morgan Frank, American Heritage — Improved Grades; Samantha Hisler, Sheridan Hills Christian School — Improved Grades; Nicholas Jumper, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Randi Kittle, Hollywood Christian — B average, Perfect Attendance; William Nelson, Ocala Elementary — B average; Jeanie Osceola, American Heritage — A average; Joseph Osceola, Sheridan Hills Christian School — Improved Grades; Jasper Thomas, American Heritage — Improved Grades; Calvin Tiger Jr., Gloria Dei Lutheran

Certificates: Reading, Language.  
**3rd Grade** — Spencer Battiest, Hollywood Christian School — B average; Allyson Billie, Driftwood Elementary — B average; Alec Cypress, Beacon Hill School — B average, Less than three days absent; Shelby DeHass, Driftwood Elementary, A average; Pedro Fuentes, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades, Certificate: Perfect Attendance third period; Jerry Micco III, Beacon Hill School — Improved Grades; Nelson Osceola, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Nicole Osceola, Driftwood Elementary — B average, Certificates: Outstanding Achievement, Principal's Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Jump for the Heart; Kei-ya-le Osceola, American Heritage — B average; Meaghan Osceola, Pinecrest Prep School- B average; Sheyanna Osceola, Driftwood Elementary — A average; Taylor Osceola, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Victor Osceola, Driftwood Elementary — B average, Perfect Attendance, Certificate: Honor Roll; Jackson Richardson, American Heritage — B average, Less than three days absent; Rose Marie Sanchez, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Lee Stewart, High Road Academy — A average; Roy Stewart, American Heritage — B average; Rhiannon Tiger, American Heritage — A average; Jessica Turtle, Driftwood Elementary — Improved Grades; Cuauhtemoc Yescas, American Heritage — B average; Joshua Cypress, Improved Grades; Aralena Lacey Jordan, B average, Perfect Attendance; Derrick Tiger, B average; Robert Tartsah,



L-R: Shadow Billie, Jessica Turtle, and Eagle J. Billie.

Academy — A average, Improved Grades, Certificates: A/B Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance 1st quarter, Student of the month January 2000, Recognized by the city of Davie & school, Certificate of Achievement, Certificate: Social Studies project- Africa/Botswana; James Tiger Jr.,



Stephen Bowers and Max Osceola award Jackson Richardson for his "B" average.

Chesterbrook Academy — B average, Certificate: Outstanding Student/Science and PE.

**6th Grade** — David Anderson Jr., American Heritage — B average, Certificates: President's Education Award, Outstanding Educational Improvement, Silver Honor Roll; Shadoe Billie, Hollywood Christian — Improved Grades; Legus Bowers, High Road Academy-B average, Certificates: Study Skills, Student of the Week March 27-31, 2000; Jerome Davis Jr., Beacon Hill School- improved Grades; Atlanta Johns, Hollywood Christian — B average, Less than three days absent; Casey McCall, Ft. Lauderdale Prep — Improved Grades, Certificate: Music Class; Austina Motlow, Ft. Lauderdale Prep — B average, Improved Grades; Gregory Osceola, American Heritage, B average; Clifford Sanchez, Hollywood Christian — B average.

**7th Grade** — Stephen Billie, American Heritage — Improved Grades; Christine McCall, Driftwood Middle — A average, Honor Classes, Perfect Attendance, Certificates: A Honor Roll, Outstanding Student, Academic Achievement, National Junior Honors Society, Reading achievement; Drew Osceola, Hollywood Christian — Improved Grades; Jo Jo Osceola, Sheridan Hills Christian School — all A's, Perfect Attendance, Certificates: Scholarship, Citizenship, 1st place in American Math Contest, Outstanding in 7th grade Math and PE, Recognition in Poetry, 3rd Place in School Marine Fair; Juanita Osceola, Ft. Lauderdale Prep — Improved Grades; Lucas Osceola, American Heritage- B average; Tasha Osceola, Sheridan Hills Christian School

— B average, Less than three days absent; Joseph Richardson, American Heritage — A average; Leanna Sapp, Hollywood Christian — Improved Grades, Perfect Attendance; Angel Young, Driftwood Middle — B average, Improvement Shown; Brendan "Josh" Young, Driftwood Middle — Improved Grades, Less than three days absent.

**8th Grade** — Bobby Osceola, American Heritage — Improved Grades; Mia Sapp, Hollywood Christian — Improved Grades; Whitney Tucker, Taos Christian School — A average.

**9th Grade** — Pete Osceola III, American Heritage, Improved Grades; Phalyn Osceola, Ft. Lauderdale Prep, Improved Grades; Nolan Bowers, High Road Academy — A average, Certificate: Outstanding in Art, Good Attitude; Gregory Thomas, American Heritage — B average.

**10th Grade** — Kyla Billie, Ft. Lauderdale Prep — Improved Grades; Jessica Buster, Sheridan Hills Christian School — B average, Less than three days absent, Certificates: Citizenship, Scholarship; Brett Green, American Heritage — Improved Grades; Mercedes Osceola, Sheridan Hills Christian School — B average, Perfect Attendance, Excellence in Sports, National Honors Society of Secondary Schools Award; Shannon Tucker, Taos Christian School — B average, Improvement Shown; Tiffany Doctor — Admiral Farragut Academy — Improved Grades.

**11th Grade** — Tommie Hawk, Nova Public School — B average, Advanced, Honors Classes; Sherry Micco, Dublin Christian School — Improved Grades; Sally Kristie Osceola, American Heritage — all A's (4.0 GPA), Excellence in Education, Less than three days absent; Jamenia Thomas, American Heritage — B average.

**Graduates 1999-2000** — Seth Billie, Ft. Lauderdale Prep; Ricardo Hernandez, Ft. Lauderdale Prep; Henry Sam Nelson, Davie Academy; LaToyia Thomas, American Heritage; Charlie Tiger III, American Heritage; Megan Yescas, American Heritage.

# Ahfachkee Hosts Open House

**By B. Secody**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — The Big Cypress Ahfachkee School hosted its annual open house to introduce and welcome parents, tribal officials, teachers, school administrators and new students to the facility on Sept. 21.

Principal Patrick Gaffney stressed the importance of reinforcing the basic philosophy of the school and re-iterated the open-door policy.

"This is your school to love and take care of, but it is all of our responsibility to give our children a good education," he said. "We feel we can give a better education than the public school system, and the people of Big Cypress should be very thankful for Ahfachkee School, where the children maintain their culture, language and still cooperate with mainstream society."

Mrs. Sharon Byrd-Gaffney, director of School Operations, was next on the program and gave a report on the progress of the school for the past year — which included the school reform strategies implemented. Some of those strategies include: Began Accelerated reader program for all grades Started development of a written curriculum for Seminole culture and language Opened a pre-kindergarten class Adopted SRA Reading in grades pre-K through eighth grade Re-established the Parent Advisory Committee



Sharon Byrd Gaffney: "For the third consecutive year. . .scores improved."

Continued work towards use of a less culturally biased, more authentic method of student assessment.

"The best indicator of our school improvement effort is that for the third consecutive year, our test scores improved," Byrd-Gaffney said. "Students have become enthused about education."

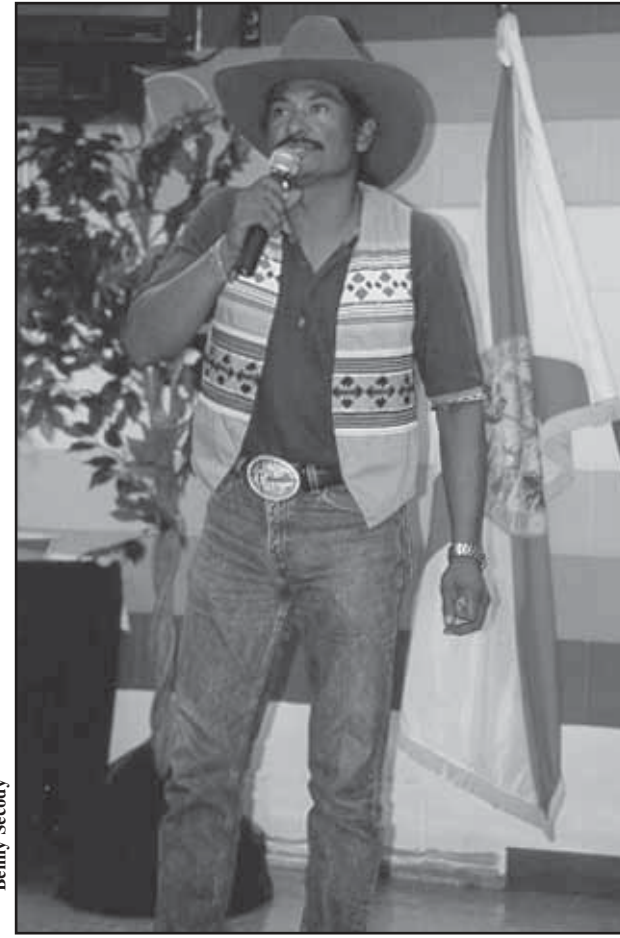
"And, I am very happy to announce that Ahfachkee School was the only Native American school to be designated as a Title I Distinguished School — winning that award."

Principal Gaffney then introduced his staff one by one:

Classroom Teachers: Heather White — Pre Kindergarten, Jill Grismore — Kindergarten, Amy Fuller — First Grade, Denise Gibson — Second Grade, Sue Tiger — Third Grade, Melissa Weinberg — Fourth Grade, Valerie Whiteside — Fifth and Sixth Grades, Eileen Hager — Seventh and Eighth Grades, Lee Zepeda — Educational Technologist/High School Teacher.

Instructional Aides: Frances Teele — Pre Kindergarten, Tonia Cypress — Kindergarten, Lenora Roberts — First Grade, Virginia Tommie — Second Grade, Lottie Jim — Third Grade, Nadine Osceola — Fourth Grade, Celeste Osceola — Fifth and Sixth Grades, Martha Doctor — Seventh and Eighth Grades/Substance Abuse Specialist, Keeno King — High School.

Support Staff: Melissa Sanders — Parent Involvement Coordinator, Renee Morales ESE Specialist, Claire Duckworth — School Social Worker, Allison McCullough — School-wide Teacher Specialist and high school, Teresa Jumper — Cultural Specialist, Jamie Osceola — Culture Aide, Bernadette Schyvinch — PE and Health, Jennifer Price — Fine Arts (Arts and Music), Terry Stewart — Media Specialist.



Mondo Tiger was one of the speakers at the event.

Office Staff: Betty King — Administrative Assistant, Francine Brown — Administrative Assistant, Karen Jackman — Bookkeeper/Reading Specialist; Cafeteria/Transportation Staff: Roseann Gattone — Cafeteria Manager, Cecelia Solano — Cook and Bus Driver, Stephen Jim and Jose Solana — Custodial/Maintenance staff.

Substitute teachers: Nikki Wiseman, Russshelle Curry and Stacey Kocijan.

## What Do ACT Test Scores Mean?

ACT is offering free information to teachers and schools for translating scores from the ACT Assessment. An informational poster indicates what students are likely to know when their college entrance exam scores fall within certain ranges. In other words, what does it mean when a student gets a 21 on an ACT test, or a 30? What is that student ready to learn next?

The informational poster is part of ACT's "Standards for Transition," a set of instructional guides that translate ACT scores into descriptions of student skills in English, reading, mathematics and science. The score translations apply to both the ACT Assessment and PLAN, an assessment for tenth graders which is on a comparable score scale as the ACT Assessment.

"Students can use the Standards to identify the knowledge and skills they likely have and those they likely need to develop," said Sherri Miller, ACT's director of elementary and secondary school programs. "Teachers can also use the Standards to identify their students' strengths and weaknesses and modify their instruction accordingly. Parents and policy-makers may find the information useful as well."

The guides also include "Pathways for Transition." The Pathways list the kinds of classroom activities students should benefit from. Teachers who want to help students improve their skills need only guide them along the Pathway that leads to the level they need to reach to be successful in high school and after.

The free poster is available from ACT, at (319) 337-1040. Standards for Transition guides can be ordered through the ACT Web site, [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

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Health Corner

Brighton Welcomes  
New Nutritionist

**BRIGHTON** — Joseph Barletto is the newly hired nutritionist at the Brighton Reservation. Joe brings many years of varied experience to the position.

For more than a decade, Joe has trained area nurses, mothers and senior citizens about nutrition. Directing the Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program at the Okeechobee County Health Department for 11 years, Joe provided nutrition counseling for pregnant women and mothers of children up to five years old. Joe has taught nutrition and diet therapy to nursing students at the Indian River Community College Hendry-Dixon Campus and provided nutrition counseling services to area Councils on Aging, the Okeechobee Health Care Facility and to Raulerson Hospital.

In addition to responsibilities for the WIC program at the Okeechobee County Health Department, Joe also served, when needed, as Environmental Health Director. Before joining the Okeechobee County Health Department in 1989, Joe worked for the State of Florida Department of Health performing migrant labor camp inspections throughout South Florida and inspecting healthcare facilities and restaurants for the Indian River County Health Department in Vero Beach.

Other jobs have included managing restaurants such as the Cracker Barrel Country Store and owning his own restaurant for a short time while he was a student in Tennessee.

Joe received his Master of Science degree in Clinical Dietetics and Nutrition from the Chicago Medical School, Finch University of Health Sciences. A Bachelor of Science degree with major in nutrition science and minors in food science and food systems administration was earned at the University of Tennessee.

Joe likes to collect old cars – mostly Volkswagens – but don't be surprised to see him roar up on a Harley or drive a different car for every day of the week. Wife, Missie, would like to say that Joe's



Joseph Barletto is the new nutritionist for Brighton.

hobby keeps him off the streets, but she'll settle for saying that it keeps him out of trouble.

Joe's other hobby is keeping up with his five kids aged 29, 27, 18, 7 and 5. Keeping up ranges from keeping tabs on the oldest daughter, who is a homicide detective in Syracuse, NY, to the youngest son, who just started kindergarten and has never met a stranger. The family likes to collect antiques and cook.

To discuss nutrition or diet concerns, Joe can be reached at the Brighton Clinic at (863) 763-1689 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by walk-in or appointment.

Big Cypress Weight Loss Contest:  
Just Another Curve In The Road

**By Jessica Novak**

**BIG CYPRESS** — So. You're one of the contestants in the weight loss contest currently underway on the Big Cypress Reservation.

I bet the day you weighed-in you felt confident you could lose a few pounds. It seems so easy, after all. All you have to do is think positively and the weight will fall off., right? Wrong.

Now that the contest has only six weeks left, you may have become discouraged. Perhaps weight loss isn't for you. Or maybe you will try again next contest. Or maybe some people just have better luck than you do in shedding those extra pounds. Or maybe you've found it is difficult to lose weight and it's not going to happen overnight.

You can list every excuse available, but the truth remains this is something you need to address. No one becomes an Olympic champion overnight, so why do you put so much pressure on yourself to change your life – or weight – overnight?

As Health Educators, we work with individuals to help change their lifestyle for the better over a period of time. This change is something you have to work at slowly, sort of like turning a car on a really curvy road. You wouldn't accelerate as you approach a sharp turn, so why do we as humans feel the need to accelerate our lifestyle changes, especially when it comes to weight loss?

Let me share with you a personal lifestyle change story. I have been trying to grow my hair longer. This may seem trivial, but when I moved to Florida last March I decided my short hair was no longer what I wanted. I wanted to change my image, specifically my hair length.

I have now been growing my hair for seven months. For those who see me every day, it does not appear that I am making any progress. After all, I do get a slight trim every four weeks or before major social occasions (no, shaggy hair does not go well at weddings!).

It would seem that if anything, I set myself back by getting these trims! But, success is coming – I ran into a friend who I had not seen since early March. She remarked, "Your hair! It's so long!"

I laughed. Each day I struggle, trying to get it to stay in place, yet she was oblivious to my daily routine of bobby pins and barrettes. She then put a hand to her own head and said, "I should try something different, too." As if it were that easy!

This story is a great example of how we perceive other people's lifestyle changes as being easier and occurring faster than ours. After all, we are not

with them each hour as they struggle to quit smoking, stop drinking, change their diet or lose weight. We just see the final product – and remark "I should do that too!"

However, when the tables are turned and it is our turn to achieve the goal, suddenly we find it is difficult. We might even find ourselves asking, 'How did they do that?'

The answer is simple. Most individuals who have achieved success with lifestyle change have done it the hard way. They took each curve slowly and kept their destination in mind. It is certainly not an easy road.

Weight loss is something that will occur over a period of time if you take the time to look at the road map. Try reducing the soda you drink this week and next week you might find you don't miss it at all. Skip the snack food and try going to the grocery store to pick up fresh fruits and a healthy sandwich for lunch.

Then, after you pull that first curve and see a small success – don't pass over at a rest stop. Continue. You might wonder, what now? Well, try increasing your exercise. Did you know if you clean your house with vigor that counts as exercise? Sitting on your sofa watching reruns on the television does not.

The most important thing to remember is you may not see any changes occurring on a daily basis, but six months from now when you fit into smaller jeans you will know you were successful.

The next six weeks will be the most exciting and most difficult for the weight loss contest. Come, stop by the gym in Big Cypress on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 12 noon until 1 p.m.

I am there with music and cold water to encourage everyone to walk or run another lap. Are you nervous about joining an exercise group? Don't be – there are days I am at the gym by myself with no one else walking but me. Please, come!

I guarantee the road ahead will become curvier, but we are here to make sure you don't apply the breaks or the accelerator as you continue. Rather, we are here to support you, push you up the hill if needed – and remind you that yes, you can do what you set your mind to. It just takes time, patience and work.

Lastly, remember – if they can do it, why not you?

The health educators can be reached at (954) 962-2009 in Hollywood, or at (863) 983-5151 in Big Cypress.

It's National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness month and is dedicated to increasing knowledge of breast cancer issues. Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that has developed from cells of the breast. It is the most common cause of cancer in women and is the leading cause of death in women ages 40 – 59. This year, 182,800 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer while 40,800 will die from the disease. Although breast cancer is mainly thought of as a woman's disease, it does not discriminate. Approximately 400 men die of the disease each year.

Several factors may increase the chance that a woman will develop breast cancer. These factors include: being older (>50 years), having a history of breast cancer, never giving birth or giving birth later than age 30, a long menstrual history, and a family history. Although having one or more of these risk factors places women at higher risk, 80 percent of all women diagnosed have no known risk factors. Risk factors for men include family history, age, and testicular dysfunction.

Although breast cancer can be a deadly disease, it can also be a curable disease. Early detection is the best defense.

Brighton Weight Loss Contest A Success

**BRIGHTON** — Aug. 25 marked the end of Brighton's second weight loss contest. A celebratory luncheon was held at the Brighton field office Sept. 12 from 12-1 p.m. to reward the participants and to preview the upcoming fall programs. An elaborate display of food catered by the Brighton Casino as well as an award ceremony were some of the highlights of the afternoon.

With encouragement from staff and tribal members, participants worked hard to lose weight. The Brighton Recreation and Health Department sponsored the contest and awarded \$10 per pound to those who successfully shed weight.

Lorene Gopher was the winner of the contest with a 20.5 pounds weight loss while Martha Jones came in close second with a 19 pound loss. When asked about her weight loss success and her thoughts of the contest, Lorene Gopher responded, "I want to be around to see my grandkids. When you get older, you start to think about these things. The contest was good because you have to go to the clinic to weigh in. Everyone knows you are in the contest so you have to do your best."

Sugar Busters awards were also given to Grace Koontz, Beulah Gopher and Martha Jones in recognition of their efforts in fighting diabetes. In all, over \$800 was distributed in cash and prizes. four-hundred dollars was donated from the Diabetes Program, while the rest was donated by Jack Smith's office.

The next weight loss contest for 10 weeks members will begin Oct. 9 and last for 10 weeks. The contest will run in conjunction with the Weight Watchers programs that is also being continued for the third time. Rewards will include money to all participants who lose weight as well as money to those who can maintain their weight during the contest. Because the contest is during the holiday season and weight gain at this time is so common, maintaining your weight is just as challenging as losing weight. All who are interested in participating should come to the Brighton Clinic Oct. 9 for the official weigh-in. If you have any questions regarding the contest, please contact Suzanne Davis at (954) 962-2009 or Joe Barletto at (863) 763-4128.

Part of the afternoon also included a pre-

view of programs starting for the fall. Jody Goodman, in conjunction with recreation, is starting a program called Team Fitness. Participants will take part in walks and exercise events as a team to provide a more supportive and social environment. She will conduct weekly walking training for those interested in preparation for these events.

Also, every Tuesday and Thursday at the Brighton Field Office Parking Lot, Jody will conduct a walking session at 5:30 p.m., a light aerobics and body sculpting class at 6 p.m. and a weight lifting class at 6:30 p.m. If you are interested in participating in any of these events, please contact Jody at (863) 763-8718.

Joe Barletto, Brighton's new Nutritionist, is planning several events for the fall, including a Farmer's Market, an after school program, prenatal nutrition classes and he is also seeking approval for nutrition classes offered through Indian River Community College for college credit to those interested.

The Farmer's Market would provide Brighton residents weekly access to fresh fruit and vegetables. The after school nutrition program will offer grade school aged children nutrition education on a regular basis while the prenatal nutrition classes will offer pregnant women education on healthy eating. His idea to offer classes through IRCC would offer Brighton residents the opportunity to attain college credits without leaving the reservation. Keep your eyes open for Joe and his plans.

All of these efforts are aimed at reducing the incidence of diabetes on the Brighton reservation. Officials from the National Institute of Health (NIH) and Indian Health Service (IHS) recently visited the Brighton Reservation to discuss the possibility of conducting a diabetes research study. Dr. Mark Trager from CDC, Dr. Rob Nelson from NIH and Pat Shumacher from IHS will coordinate their efforts with Seminole Health Department.

Here is the total list of people who did a great job slimming down for the summer weight loss contest: Wesley Garcia, Martha Jones, Farrah Jones, Debbie Carter, Arica Buck, Wendy Johns, Lorene Gopher, Loretta Peterson, Shane Buck, Sheila Madrigal, and Agnes Bert.

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# Tribe Set To Host Wet Blade Demo

**By Dan McDonald**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — The Seminole Tribe will host the largest gathering of Florida demonstration managers ever assembled to witness a demonstration of the Burch Wet Blade mowing system on Nov. 9, at the tribe's Big Cypress Reservation.

Over 200 land and range managers are expected to see the patented system hailed as a major advancement in plant management. Basically, the Wet Blade is a rotary-mowing blade designed to carry a thin bead of fluid on the bottom cutting edge.

As the blade cuts through vegetation, the fluid is deposited directly on the plant stem. X-ray and carbon 14 tests have shown the Wet Blade delivers up to 30 percent of herbicide into the plant's root system, compared to one to two percent for conventional broadcast spray methods.

When used with herbicides, the Wet Blade is having dramatic impact on plants that previously defied control such as melaluca, wax myrtle, tropical soda apple and sugarcane. But, not only is the system dramatically more effective at delivering herbicide, it is environmentally friendly because no spray is released into the air or onto the ground.

Also, plant biologists are discovering other ways to use the Wet Blade, including distributing natural pathogens or fungal spores as a non-chemical method of plant control. Other scientists are also using the Wet Blade to deliver fertilizers, natural enzymes and growth regulators on a large scale.

Researchers who will report on their work

with the Wet Blade at the Nov. 9, Big Cypress conference include:

Dr. Bob Eplee, retired USDA invasive weed specialists, Dr. Jeff Mullahey, IFAS and University of Florida plant scientist and Director of the West Florida Research and Education Center, Dr. R. Charudattan, a University of Florida plant pathologist, James DeValerio, senior biologist at the University of Florida, and Dr. Walt Skroha, Emeritus Professor of Horticulture, North Carolina State University.

"This is an exciting time for the Burch Wet Blade team," says Tom Burch, president of the Burch Co., and the inventor of the Wet Blade. "We have spent over a decade perfecting this system, and now we're getting the test results from scientists.

"The results are better than our expectations. We feel the agricultural specialists coming to the Big Cypress demonstration will see something that will change the way vegetation is managed."

After the presentations the scientists, guests will be taken to three demonstration plots cut with the Wet Blade to see the effectiveness in treating invasive weeds on the Big Cypress Reservation. The event is open to the public.

The Burch Company is based in Wilkesboro, N.C. It can be reached at (336) 667-9196. The Seminole Tribe of Florida, headquartered on the Hollywood Reservation, is a major investor in the company.

## Viking

Continued from page 1

James Billie, who met with the Viking contingent from Jels Denmark in his office recently.

"Just like the historians try to say we Seminoles came down here from someplace else. Heck, we've been around here for thousands of years. The historians are often wrong about the



James E. Billie signs contract that links Seminoles/Vikings.

Indians, but we don't care. We are proud to participate with the Vikings to present our two cultures to people on both sides of the ocean."

The Jels-Vikings have been presenting outside amphitheater plays for many years in the tiny western Denmark burg of Jels. This past summer, Seminole Chairman Billie and his wife and two sons were guests of honor at the Jels event for a whole week. The Seminole family was presented to the audience each night, dressed in traditional clothing,

and the Chief and his band performed at the Valhall after each show. (For photographs online, visit [www.seminoletribe/](http://www.seminoletribe/))

The idea for the joint theatrical effort was born in conversations between Tribal Aviation Director Peter Vedel and Scandinavian Airlines pilot Per Anderson, both Denmark natives and friends of Chief Billie. "The people in Denmark are fascinated by the American Indian culture," said Peter. "These planned shows will be very unique. I know the Vikings are very excited about this."

According to Anderson, the event will bring approximately 20 native actors to perform in Jels and more than 100 Danish actors to the states to perform.

"Screenwriters are right now forming the story, which will be fictional based on historical facts," said Anderson.

"We are very happy and proud that we are invited to participate in this historical event," says Olav Finnemann, Chairman of the Jels-Vikings who shook Chairman Billie's hand to seal the deal, recently.

"I was very impressed with what I saw in Denmark," said Chief Billie. "The play and the costumes were very authentic. Even though we could not understand the language, you could understand what was going on. I wanted to find a way to bring this to America and it looks like we have succeeded."

The play will also mark the 1,000 anniversary of the year the Vikings landed their longships on the East Coast. A museum opened by the Danish Prins Joakim will take a traveling exhibit across the U.S. over the next two years, coinciding with the Seminole-Jels event.

A site for the event has not yet been chosen, but will definitely be a northern clime location such as Minnesota or Wisconsin, reports Vedel.

# American Indian Outreach

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 years workshops.



Lee Tiger

To those who would like to attend one, we will continue FDOT workshops throughout 1999. 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 The Department of Transportation, call me 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.

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# Storytellers

Continued from page 1

life touring the country and presenting “accurate and entertaining portrayals of American Indians through the mediums of high performance theatre, dance and comedy,” says Hill.

“We make learning about American Indian history fun and entertaining. Our objective is to help bridge the gap between cultures and bring about a better understanding of America’s first people . . . the American Indians.”

Based in Tulsa, Mahenwahdose was formed in 1992. Hill received his formal theatre training at the College of Santa Fe, Oklahoma State University and Tulsa Junior College. He is an alumnus of the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute and has studied Playwriting under New York playwright Jonn Bishop. He was voted Favorite Indian Performer in the State of Oklahoma in 1998 and 2000.

DeMarco (Cherokee, Yuchi and Seminole) is a singer, actress and dancer who graduated with honors from the American Music and Dance Academy of New York City. She has numerous film and stage credits, including *Peace, Power Rangers*, and *Powwow Highway*. She was also a dancer/show girl with Ringling Brothers Barnum&Bailey circus during a 1990-91 national tour.

Shana Banana is St. Petersburg singer/songwriter Shana Smith. A native of the Hawaiian Islands, she is one of the nation’s top children’s artists. Last year she starred at Kidstock and was featured at the White House Easter show. A Radio Disney artist, Shana just finished the pilot for a national children’s television show *Shana Banana’s Music and Fun For Kids*, which also stars Seminole Tribal member Kowoko Billie. Her album of the same name is distributed nationally by Borders Books and Music.

In addition to his Seminole Tribal executive duties, Chief Jim Billie is one of the nation’s top



Oklahoma storytellers and Chief Jim Billie perform for Nashville elementary school kids.

native musical artists and the winner of the 1999 Native American Music “Living Legend” award. His two albums for Sound of America Recordings (SOAR) received international critical acclaim and earned national distribution by Tower and Peaches records. His songs and stories remain true to his Seminole culture, colored by his unique position in two worlds. Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida since 1979, Chief Jim Billie has made cultural preservation, including language, the hallmark of his administration.

His last album, *Seminole Fire* was produced by John McEuen and is a collection of tales and legends he remembers first hearing as a child living in the Florida swamps.

“Nowadays with all the external fun available to a child, it can be hard to get them to listen to the stories and songs of our culture,” says Chief Billie.

“But if you make it fun and interesting enough, they will pay attention. C’m on out and see what I’m talking about!”



Geninne DeMarco (L) and Will Hill tell legends.

# Making It Better

By Wilma Mankiller

America would be a better place if there were more women in leadership positions. Twenty-five years ago, many of us made it a personal goal to ensure that there are as many women as men in the U.S. Congress. Well, here we are 25 years later, and we are nowhere near that goal. How can America possibly do its best without the voices of more than half its population, the women of this country? In 1756, Cherokee Chief Attakull-Kulla, upon meeting with the South Carolina Assembly, asked the question “Where are your women?” As we face the new millennium, this former Cherokee chief asks the same question: “Where are your women?”

America has had many periods of greatness, but it also has had its share of dark days. America would be a better place if we held a national conversation about race and the true history of this country. Most American history books make only a passing reference to the people who lived here for thousands of years before Columbus accidentally stumbled onto the shores. Children are not taught that long before Columbus arrived, native governments existed on this land we now call America. Because there is so little accurate information about Native Americans in the popular culture or educational institutions, stereotypes about Native Americans are pervasive.

America would be a better place if we all shared a common vision of what America is and what it could be. There are no great moral leaders today, no one to listen to all of us and then articulate a clear vision for the future. People in leadership positions tend to shy away from taking strong positions on the great issues of our time.

America would be a better place if the corporate community would assume more responsibility for helping solve problems in the community, particularly problems it creates. Short-term profits drive the management decisions of too many businesses. It is unconscionable that we live in a society where we allow industrial polluters to harm the very things that sustain us: water, air, and land. Which naturally brings me to campaign finance reform. Many of America’s largest polluters are major contributors to both political parties. Campaign finance reform would help make America better.

Finally, America would be a better place if leaders would do more long-term thinking. Short-term thinking has led us to the point where we now address the problem of crime by building more prisons and address the health care of children by completely ignoring the fact that millions of children do not have access to the health care they need. Are these solutions? In Iroquois society leaders are encouraged to remember seven generations in the past and consider seven generations in the future when making decisions that affect the people. If leaders everywhere would adopt this simple policy, America would be a much better place.

*Wilma Mankeller was elected principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma in 1985. At the time of her third-term, 1991, the 15-member Cherokee Tribal Council included six women. Her biography, “Mankiller: A Chief and Her People” was published in 1993 by St. Martin’s Press. This essay was published in the book “250 Ways to Make America Better,” compiled by Carolyn Mackler and the editors of George Magazine.*



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Classified • Announcements

Happy Birthday



**Happy Birthday to Savannah Huggins.** I hope this day is special. Love, Megan.



Our Little Pumpkin is turning one, Oct. 28. **Happy 1st Birthday, Arek Dalton Jumper.** From Momma (LaTonya Galindo) & Dada.



**Happy Birthday to Mommy.** I love you. **Shatee aka Piglet.**

**Happy 18th Birthday to Myra Frank.** Finally you're an adult. Have fun, but not too much. **Love Megan & Savannah.**

**Happy 10th Birthday Dayne Weston Johns** from your Dad.

We would like to wish **Sheila Jones Happy 7th Birthday.** Hope you have fun on your birthday. We love you baby. **Love, Mom, Dad, Sheila & Deveon.**



**"Happy Birthday"** to our two boys. **Michael** turned three on Oct. 12 and **Erik** turned two on Oct. 7. We love you. **Mom and Dad.**

Tribune Notice

When submitting birthdays or student recognition notices, etc., please include your "real" names, not just mom and dad – who's the parents of the person in the picture?  
Make sense?  
— *Virginia Mitchell, Editor.*

Corrections

Over \$1 million worth of calves were sold from Brighton, not \$100,000, as reported in the Sept. 29, edition.

Poems

Song of Deceit

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

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

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

That's right it's me I'm here  
Pick me up and put me to your lips  
I'll go down your throat with burning hell  
Because you are mine to kick your hips

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

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

— *By Paul "Cowbone" Buster*

Exit The Zone

I'm sleeping with heat,  
Under my sheets.  
Late night I grip my pillow tight.  
Tossing and turning in my sleep.  
Paranoid and call it.  
The ill ways of a drug addict slash alcoholic  
3:00 am and I'm still on the stroll  
20 years young  
But my body is feeling stressed and mad old.  
I've got a heart  
But my blood is mad cold  
I should've listened to my comrades  
When I was told  
To live life to the fullest never fold  
Too damn late now  
My soul has been sold.  
Maybe I can change, but most doubt it  
Is it so – I can roll  
And somehow reroute it.  
Nah' the real world isn't for me.  
Besides it's already too crowded.  
Hear and feel my poetry  
As it's quietly shouted.  
Exit the zone – stay 'bout it.

— *Markell Billie*

Night Sky

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Jim Billie

I open my eyes  
But I cannot see  
The tears of injustice  
Are blinding  
I open my ears  
But I cannot hear  
The storms of prosperity  
Are thundering  
My table is full  
But I hunger still  
My anguished Spirit  
Is starving  
The pain I feel  
Is a consuming fire  
My beloved land  
Is gone  
As you reach forward  
Beloved Asti Seminoli  
Remember the ancient promises  
In the fields of water  
"I will be with you always...."  
The spirit rests upon you,  
O mighty warrior  
The mantel is now yours  
Use it wisely

— *Daughters of the Wind*

Hats Off!

Hats off to the Panther Clan,  
Only the strong survive in this Promised land!

The Unconquered Seminoles we  
Are a part of, It don't matter if  
We are saints or notorious thugs.

The Great Spirit sees us all as  
One, only He can judge us for  
The wrong we have done.

To my brother Burt who we call  
Breeze, when you get free  
Regulate and make that cheese.

Momma loves you and misses you as  
Well, Lil B needs you out there  
So don't go back to jail.

When those shots rang out you did  
What you had to do, it was done for  
A purpose now all that's through.

My brother it's time to move on and  
Live your life free, I know you  
Can do it easily.

To my brother Lyle, who we call  
Lil Craze, I still remember  
That 76 yard touchdown you made.

It's been a long time that you  
Been away, just so you know  
Momma loves and misses you more  
By the day.

When you get free you and Breeze  
Keep that family pride strong, we  
Always representing that's well known.

My brother spend time with  
Your shorties and show them a  
Better way, see to it that they  
Grow to be prosperous one day.

This is Lil Brother Ike bringing  
Forth this scribe, they call me  
Soldier standing strong with pride.

I'll get to see ya'll, until then  
I'll continue to write & sometimes  
I'll call.

Breeze and Lil Craze keep that unity  
Strong when ya'll get free, be there  
For my shorties in place of me.

To me all that matters is that our  
Family is fine, Ike gonna be  
Alright ain't nothing to this four  
Letter word they call "time".

Momma I speak for me and my brothers  
When I say much love, brothers when  
Ya'll get free give momma a hug.

Momma you raised us proper, you  
taught  
Us to do right not wrong, you the best  
Momma you're so strong.

Our family sticks together through good  
Times and bad, I seen families fall apart  
Damn that's sad.

Grandma we inherited our strength  
From you, that's why we can see bad  
Times easily through.

Hats off to you Grandma and all of our  
Family as well, we represent whether  
We succeed or fail.

— *Ike T. Harjo, Panther Clan*

Personals



**Native Woman Seeks Native Man**  
Hello my name is **Cheyenne**. I am a 33 year old Native American woman, wondering where do single Native Americans meet?

I seek only a Native American man of true heritage not any wanna bes. I've done modeling for six years and do attend pow-wows with my wolf Ukia. I raised Ukia myself and sent along a photo of us done three weeks ago in a studio in Orlando. Are you still hiring for any casino jobs? Write soon. And you have a great web site. Thank You,  
**Cheyenne**

**Native Man Seeks Native Woman**  
Strong native man searching for Indian woman who can cook and doesn't mind cleaning chores. I'll bring home the bacon. You cook it. Must be between 25 and 35 and have your own car, job and house. Wednesday is your night for television. Must like me watching football. I'll fix your lawnmower if it breaks down. Keep me happy. I'll take care of the rest.  
**Joe D.**

Respond to personals by e-mailing [tribune@semtribe.com](mailto:tribune@semtribe.com).

Notices

**Withlacoochee Trail Ride & Jam** — Oct. 20 – 22. T.C. & Richard McCulley Farm, Hwy. 143, Jennings, Fla.

**5K Run Away From Drugs** — Oct. 22. To benefit The Starting Place, 8 – 11 a.m. Registration fee. Call for information at (954)926-6945.

**Blood Drive, Health Fair** — On Thursday, Oct. 26, there will be a Blood Drive and Mini Health Fair located at the Hollywood Tribal Office. For more information or to sign up to donate please contact Toni Taglione at (954)962-2009.

**City Of Hollywood's Diamond Celebration** — Nov. 1 – Nov. 30. Plans include the Hollywood Jazz Festival, (954)921-3404.

**Black River Pow Wow 2000** — Nov. 3-5. Celebrating Bogalusa's Choctaw Heritage. Contact Rico at (504)730-5891, Curt at (504)839-6632 or Brock at (504)732-5173. Web Site: <http://www.geocities.com/blackriver-circleofnations>.

**Ed-Venture Program** — Nov. 10. Parrot Jungle and Gardens is pleased to bring back its educational and adventure program for kids ages 5-10 for a one-day engagement, from 9a.m. – 4p.m. For general information, phone (305)666-7834, [www.parrotjungle.com](http://www.parrotjungle.com).

**First Concert On The Green In The Hollywood** — Nov. 11, 6p.m. – 10p.m., at the Hollywood Beach Golf and Country Club. The concert was designed to assist

in the development of quality cultural arts program in Hollywood. For more information, contact DKMC, Inc. at (954)923-4343.

**First Seminole Baptist Church** — 4701 Stirling Road. Nov. 5-10 at 6:45p.m. Evan: Rev. Noel Turner and family from Tennessee. Lots of special music and singing, everyone welcome! Sunday School 9:45p.m., Sunday Service 11p.m., Sunday Evening Church Training 6p.m., Evening Worship 7p.m. and Wed. Night 7p.m.

**Scholarship Available For Midwife Conference** — Clearwater Beach – scholarships for Native Americans to attend the Midwives Alliance of North America's 10th Annual Conference are now available.

The conference will be held at the Hilton Resort in Clearwater Beach, Nov. 10-12. To qualify for the scholarship, a person must be a Native American and be interested in learning what it takes to become a midwife.

The theme of this year's conference is 'Bringing Midwifery into the Light.' Alice Walker, winner of the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award will present the keynote address.

For more information contact Mark or Jeanne Madrid at (863)665-2201, leave a message at (800)694-6542, or e-mail [jeannewife@aol.com](mailto:jeannewife@aol.com)

**2nd annual pow wow at Summit** — Hai, Hai, the Summit Montessorri School is holding their. 2nd annual gathering that is to be held Nov. 18

at 11-4p.m. 5451 SW 64 Ave, Davie. Camping is first come first serve. No drugs or alcohol. This is a fun learning experience for young and old alike. Dancers, drummers, storytellers and anyone else that would like to share their experiences, knowledge or culture, please plan to join us. Sundancer (954)463-5004.

**Festival and Pow Wow** — Nov. 17 – 19, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, GA. For information call (912)869-0462 or (912)787-5180, [nativeway@mindspring.com](mailto:nativeway@mindspring.com).

**Hollywood Beach Candy Cane Parade** — Sat., Dec. 16 – 7p.m. More than 75 bands, floats and marching units. For more information (954)921-3404, [chancock@hollywoodfl.org](mailto:chancock@hollywoodfl.org).

**"Drive 2001" Car & Boat Donations** — End date Dec. 31. Don't Drive Your Tax Deduction Into 2001! Call (954)463-3725.

**Internet in the Computer Lab** — Internet now available in the DSO Library. You must be at least 13 to use the internet and at least in middle school to use the CDRoms or Word programs. See librarian for access or instruction.

**FREE Puppies** — Free to good home three (3) male puppies. Part Red Nose Pit Bull, part Curr born in June about four months old. Take one or take them all, nice looking. Can be seen at 6430 N.W. 34th St., or call Christine at 966-6300, ext. 1462.

teaching planning skills required.

**Position:** Maintenance  
**Open Date:** September 27, 2000  
**Close Date:** October 8, 2000  
**Location:** Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum, Big Cypress NA

**Salary:** High school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent required. Valid Florida drivers license also required. Wood working knowledge and ability to safely operate hand tools is also necessary. Responsibilities include maintaining landscaping and exterior grounds, cleaning and maintaining all interior spaces of the museum. Other duties include making minor repairs to the museum.

**Position:** Direct Care Aid  
**Open Date:** September 27, 2000  
**Close Date:** October 8, 2000  
**Location:** Family Services, Big Cypress

**Salary:** Negotiable, plus benefits  
**Description:** High school diploma or G.E.D equivalent required. college/voca-

tional training preferred. Must be willing to work flex hours. Bilingual English/Spanish. Must possess valid Florida driver's license. Physical fitness necessary to guide/transport client. Responsibilities include 8-12 hour shifts of direct care to brain-injured male, training and travel as needed. Additional duties also include accompanying client to medical appointments.

**Position:** Instructional Aide  
**Open Date:** September 27, 2000  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Ahfachkee School, Brighton

**Salary:** \$9.00 per hour, plus benefits

**Description:** HS diploma/ GED required. Strong understanding of Seminole culture desired. Assist teacher with classroom activities and paperwork.

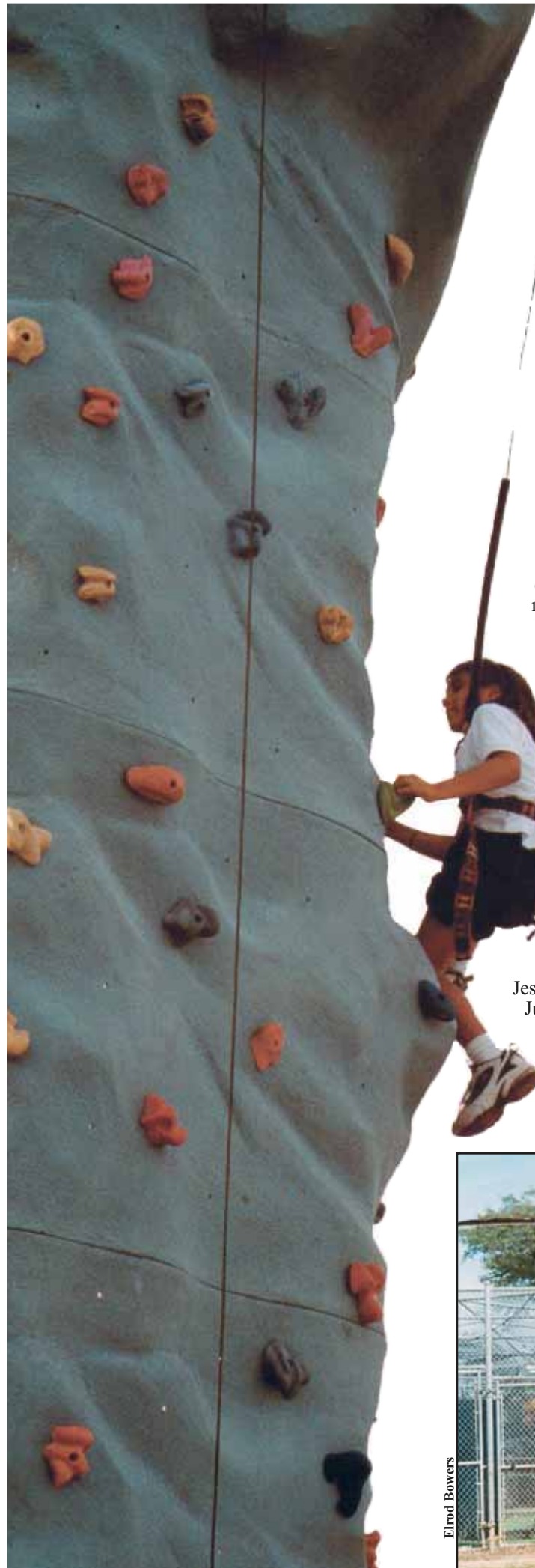
For more information visit [www.seminoletribe.com/employment/headquarters.shtm](http://www.seminoletribe.com/employment/headquarters.shtm).

Deadlines

Seminole Tribune

November 10 Issue • Deadline October 27  
December 1 Issue • Deadline November 17  
December 22 Issue • Deadline December 8  
January 12 Issue • Deadline December 5





# Hollywood Indian Day

**By E. Bowers**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — The entire recreation area was abuzz with activity on Sept. 22, Indian Day. The parking lot was crowded with gleaming cars, trucks, and bikes and noisy with owners making last minute adjustments for the Sound-Off category. Councilman Max Osceola was there shining up his motorcycle.  
Near the racquetball courts, judges Bobby Frank, Robert North, Milo Osceola, and Eric Osceola were happily sampling the frybread contest entries. The judging was a grueling process of deciding the best frybread based upon consistency, fluffiness, taste, and, for lack of a better word, non-greasiness.  
Nearby the frybread arena, men and women were sweating it out in the log-peeling contest. Some entrants flew through the contest, while others awoke muscles that they hadn't used in years.  
Under the oak tree Seminole men were secretly masaging strange spices and juices into racks of ribs for the B-B-Q Rib Cookoff. Winner Keith Osceola credited his special ingredient with the win. "It was the mojo," said Osceola.  
On the outdoor basketball court, the kids were punishing the three bounce houses while others were trying their luck on the rock wall.

After dinner, it was time for FCW wrestling. The main event was the "Seminole" wrestler Thunderheart, featuring guest manager, Rocky Johnson, the father of WWF wrestler "The Rock". The Mayor of Davie, Harry Venis, who is known as "the wrestling Mayor", refereed the match.  
A spectacular fireworks display capped off a long day of fun and entertainment for the Hollywood community. Events and winners were as follows:  
**Rib Cookoff** — 1) Keith Osceola, 2) Mingo Jones, 3) Philmon Bowers  
**Frybread Contest** — 55+ — 1) Betty Osceola, 2) Maydell Osceola, 3) Annie Tiger; **21-54** — 1) Judy Jones, 2) Barbara Billie, 3) Juanita Osceola; **14-20** — 1) Phalyn Osceola.  
**Car Show** — **Bicycle** — 1) Ravenne Osceola, 2) Hailee Osceola, 3) Legus Bowers/Cliff Sanchez; **Classic Truck** — 1) Leon Wilcox, **Custom Car** — 1) Steve Osceola, 2) Blake Osceola, 3) Mitchell/Charles; **Custom Truck** — 1) Clifton Billie, 2) Ronnie Billie, 3) Tate Osceola; **Motorcycle** — 1) Max Osceola, 2) Clifford Sanchez, 3) Max Osceola; **Stock Car** — 1) Loretta Micco, **Stock Truck** — 1) Judy Jones, 2) Jessica Buster, 3) Leon Wilcox; **Custom Classic Car** — 1) Bigshot Jumper, 2) Bigshot Jumper; **Custom Classic Truck** — 1) Betty Mae Jumper; **Sport Utility Vehicle** — 1) Michael Onco, 2) Brande Clay; **Sound Off** — 1) Pete Baker, 2) Mitch Osceola, 3) Clifton Billie; **Van** — 1) Marcy Osceola Jr., 2) Alicia Sanchez, 3) Dan Osceola; **Best of Show** — Betty Mae Jumper.



Milo Osceola shows the one handed method of skinning a pole.



This youngster gets a close-up look at the face of a gentle goat.



Peek-a-boo -- this child plays with photographer.

# Big Cypress Community Enjoys Indian Day

**BIG CYPRESS** — People, running and ducking flying cow patties, filled the Big Cypress Reservations Ball Field with laughter as community members gathered to celebrate National Indian Day, Sept. 22.  
The smelliest, but, funniest event of the day, had to be the cow-chip throwing contest. Contestants who participated in the event dug deep in a garbage barrel for a handful of dried cow dung deep in participants barrel by throwing feces the farthest.  
Not every contest was as amusing for the crowd who dodged the flying pies. Participants in the day's festivities also entered a clothing contest, where contestants of all ages entered hand made Seminole traditional clothing. Judges for the contest Seminole Elders Rosie Billie and Alice Billie.  
Other events, which lasted through the day, included a co-ed horseshoe tournament, were some 16 teams participated. Also, guests were treated to a catered lunch provided by Big Cypress Board Representative Mondo Tiger.



COWCHIPS: And, this ain't no bull!



**SMELL OF SUCCESS:** Janice Osceola won cowchip toss , and Mondo Tiger wisely presented check to her non-throwing hand.

to a marked position on a shaved pole for points.  
After the exhibition game had ended, members shook hands and enjoyed the rest of the evening with community friends and relatives, at least until the Florida state bird — the mosquito — came out of the Big Cypress Swamp.  
The following are the results of the special events:  
**Men Horseshoe** — 1st Jason Grasshopper, 2nd Jason Bettleyoun. **Women's Horseshoe** — 1st place Myra Jumper, 2nd place Janice Osceola. **Seniors Horseshoe** — 1st Rudy Osceola, 2nd place Joe Billie Jr. **Cowchip Throwing** — **Women's** 1st place Janice Osceola, 2nd place Mary Jumper. **Men's** — Mondo Tiger, Larry Smith. **Clothing Contest** — **Children Modern** — Tacomah Robbins. **Traditional** Candelario Landin III. **Women's Modern** — Shelly Tigertail. **Traditional** — Myra Jumper. **Men's Modern** Roger Billie. **Traditional** — Jeremiah Hall.

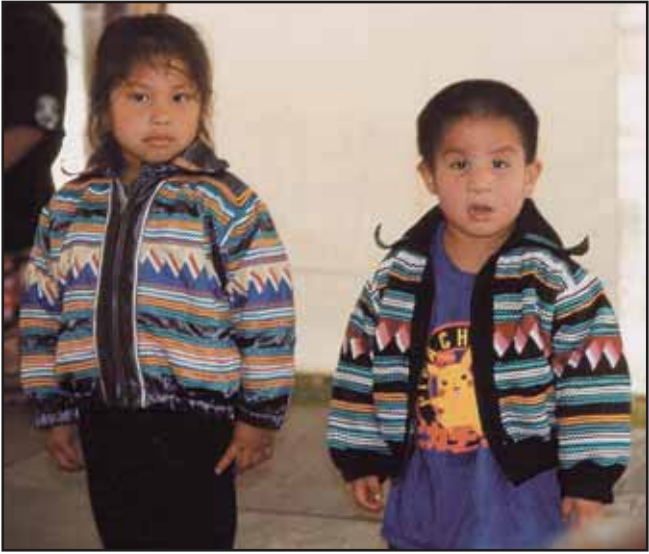


Kiddie rides were running free all day long as children enjoyed thrilling Indian Day.

# Miccosukees Celebrate Indian Day

**By B. Secody**  
**MICCOSUKEE** — The Miccosukee Tribe celebrated Indian Day Sept. 22, with a full day of special events at the Tribal Village.  
Festivities began at 8:30 a.m.,

welcome everyone to the day's festivities and joined the group for lunch in the tent.  
The patchwork contest brought out some of the most beautiful designs ever displayed — as the artists modeled their creations before a panel of judges.



These little ones know how to model thier jackets.

with rides set up for the young children to enjoy throughout the day, although some of the contests were actually held earlier in the week — such as the "Indian Car and Truck" contest, which was held Sept. 18 in the parking lot across from the village. The "Indian Dog" contest was also held on the 18th. The Indian Dog contest stipulated that the dog had to be owned by a Tribal members, be on a leash, and not be abused.

A massive tent was erected for the clothing contests and for Tribal guests to eat. Although the temperature outside the tent soared above the 90 degree mark, 10 huge portable air conditioners kept the inside of the tent cool throughout the day. It was an oasis for those to come in out of the rain — which kept trying to dampen the day's festivities — but to no avail.

Several contests were held through the course of the day beginning with the Fry Bread Contest (age 14 and up), followed by the log peeling (men and women — ages 15 and up.) The women shamed the men in the log -peeling contest as they won hands down.  
Tribal officials were held to

Betty Cypress, who emceed the event, kept track of all winners. Categories included baggy shirts — traditional and contemporary, big shirt, short skirts, contemporary jackets, traditional outfits, contemporary shirts, vests, contemporary outfits, traditional style jackets, and traditional long skirt.  
The clothing contest stretched on throughout the afternoon. Other categories included original artwork, beadwork, dolls, poetry, photography, wood carving and sweet grass baskets.  
Bingo games ended the day, which stressed having a great time while reflecting on culture, heritage and good health.



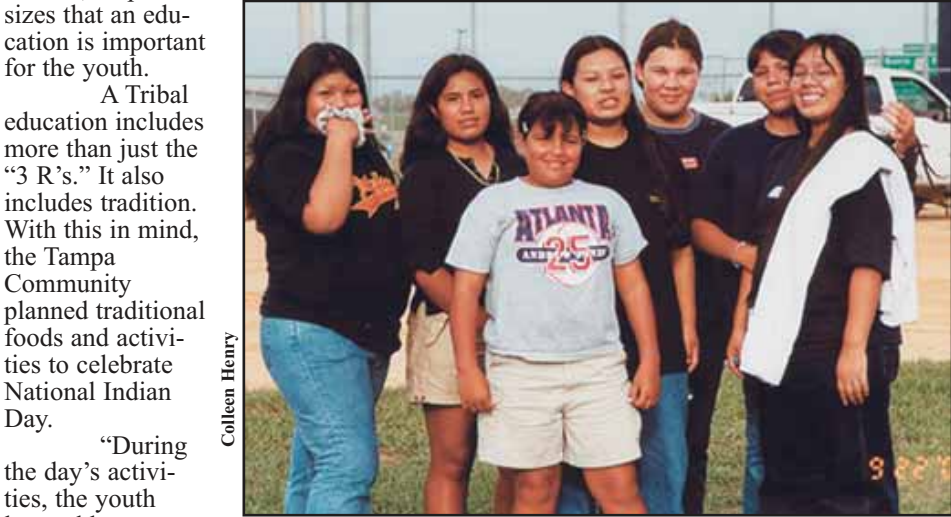
Layla Billie shows off her winning skirt.



Tina Smith participates in the women's log skinning competition.

# Students Learn Cultural Skills

**By Gary Padgett**  
**TAMPA** — Sep. 22 was National Indian Day, and the Tampa Community took the opportunity to teach the youth some of the traditional ways. This is because the Tampa Community, as well as the entire Seminole Tribe of Florida, emphasizes that an education is important for the youth.  
A Tribal education includes more than just the "3 R's." It also includes tradition. With this in mind, the Tampa Community planned traditional foods and activities to celebrate National Indian Day.



**Seminole youth participate in Indian Day (l-r): Kaylin Henry, Miranda Motlow, Sierra Simmons, Linda and Jane Henry, Jamie Henry, and Alana Henry.**

"During the day's activities, the youth learned how to make baskets, learned about their culture, and other stuff they didn't know," says Jesse Jimmie. The truth behind this statement was evident by the number of Tampa

nity, and that is the most important lesson the youth can learn.





# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

## Special Edition October 20, 2000

### Pithlachocco's Canoes: Nature's Millennium Message?

Perhaps the earth really is trying to tell us something. We all know (well, most of us do) that the entire concept of a "millennium," a thousand-year cycle, is entirely arbitrary. Something that Western Christians created to organize time, and based on their determination to emphasize the importance of the arbitrary date when a person known as Jesus, the son of an elderly carpenter, was born. But years, and sets of one hundred years, or even of one thousand years really are only weak attempts to define the rhythms of the forces that we call "nature." They could never *command* nature or make nature conform to human expectations.

But we can open our minds to the workings of nature, even though they are beyond the understanding of human beings and beyond the powers of



Dr. Patricia Wickman

humans to control. That's the 'default' state of mind for Indians, but it takes a lot of effort for anyone else. For even as we attempt to define nature and capture it in words, we know that it is an entity separate from ourselves, and a force beyond our own control. We are all bound up with nature and the cycles of nature, however, and it has an impact on every facet of our lives. So, if we're half as smart as we like to think we are, maybe we ought to pay more attention to the larger messages that it seems to be trying to give us.

Case in point: the land beneath the water near Gainesville, known to non-Indian Floridians as Newnan's Lake, has just offered all of us a tremendous message. The old Maskóki name for that land covered by water has long been "pithlachocco" (*bithli* = boat, *chokó* = structure/house), or "the place where the boats stay." Little by little, nature has caused the waters to recede, at this particular moment, in order to reveal 87 canoes, that have been 'living' on that land, some of them for as long as 5,000 years.

This is not a surprise to the Indians. Rather, as Chairman James Billie has pointed out, nature has honored the Indians by revealing this information. The Seminole people know that their ancestors have camped on, walked across, hunted on, lived on, fought over, and died in this land that white people decided to name "Florida" for countless millennia. Literally. They were the inheritors of nature's bounty and the students of nature's lessons.

The news that such a large and specialized site existed comes as a surprise to non-Indians only because too many of us have effected a radical 'shift in focus,' you might say, over time and because we have chosen repeatedly to ignore the messages of nature, for our own cultural purposes. To many, it is more important to write the past their own way than to believe that the Indians of Florida today are the descendants of the Indians who saw and used those magnificent trees, growing around the area that they called *chua*, the "little jug with no bottom," the place where the earth drinks the water up from time to time and lets the land breathe. These are the same people who now have the evidence of their own scientific analysis that those Indian ancestors used their water-covered place where the boats stay, not for just a few years, or a few hundred years, but for thousands of years — a cycle that was disturbed only after the coming of the Europeans. But nature will not be ignored. And what a brilliant, and dramatic, manner of delivering the message. *Pithlachocco* is a site unique in the entire United States, and one integrally connected to the long heritage of the American Indians.

This is the way that nature tries to get our attention, to point out something transcendently important. And this is neither the only time nor the only place where nature has confronted us with such clarity. Indeed, we have had a number of opportunities to learn of late. For example, in the recent national controversy over the remains of the so-called "Kennewick Man," nature provided us with a critical opportunity to confront our national imaging of the Indians and of their equity in this land. The intensity of national reaction made all too clear the intensity of national feelings, and the fight between those who follow nature and those who try to command it will go on for quite some time.

In South Dakota earlier this year, when nature's freezing cycle had absorbed the waters of the White Swan reservoir, for the first time in half a century, the nation was confronted with another bitter reality. The remains of many ancestors had not been removed before the damned waters of the Missouri river covered their graveyard, as the US government had promised the Sioux Indians so long ago. Women of the Yankton Sioux Braveheart Society camped, in subzero temperatures, on the frozen lakebed to pro-



WATER WORLD: DeBry woodcut portrays Florida Indians near the time of white contact, 500 years ago.

### In Their Own Words: E-Mails Show Irresponsibility

By Charles Flowers

A review of e-mail correspondence to and from state officials over five months shows a pattern of irresponsibility for the safety of the archaeological treasures first discovered at Newnan's Lake this May.

In fact, the officials' primary concern was not the ancient canoes, but rather a local citizen who first complained about a deadhead logging operation on the lake. In a chilling example of public officials turning on an innocent "whistleblower," false accusations, innuendo, and disrespectful comments were hurled online via state computers.

The e-mails were part of a public records request by the *Seminole Tribune*. E-mails are notes sent instantly from one computer user to another. Unless erased, they are stored on the computer for later retrieval.

The first e-mail regarding Newnan's Lake, dated May 18, was sent to Jim Miller, State Archaeologist in the Division of Historic Resources (DHR) from Erika Simons. Simons was with archaeologists Barbara Purdy and Ray McGee when they discovered the first seven (of 87) ancient canoes buried in the drought exposed lakebed. She included photos of Purdy and McGee with a partially excavated canoe plainly visible.



Melissa Memory's videotape still shows deadhead logger in restricted area.

One day later, May 19, a Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) chemist named Tom Frick wrote a DEP colleague that he had done a pre-recovery assessment of the Newnan's Lake site with logger Charles Pinson. No mention was made of any canoes or archaeological concerns.

"We observed a number of areas where log recovery was already taking place and spoke with a land owner who was claiming ownership of the lake bottom," Frick wrote.

(Frick was referring to illegal logging not permitted by the state. The land owner was Dale Crider, whose complaints of environmental damage first alerted officials that something might be amiss with a permitted deadhead logging operation on the lake.)

One week later, May 26, John Tietjen, a DEP investigator, wrote his superior, Jack Dunphy: "There are what appear to be skid marks from the waters edge to a ramp near kreidler's (sic) residence. Boards can be seen through the trees drying. In short, I think we can show his involvement."

(The subject of the investigation, "kreidler," is Newnan's Lake resident Crider.)

There is still no mention of any Indian canoes, although the local *Gainesville Sun* would report June 2 that more than 20 had been found.

On June 7, the DEP's Michael Eaton wrote, "Mr. Crider has been removing logs for a number of years from the lake. Based on our proprietary ownership, C&E (compliance and enforcement) is going to pursue enforcement if he continues doing so."

(Note: Crider says the logs he used to build his house were taken years ago from property for which he has a deed and pays taxes on. No case against Crider has yet been filed by "C&E," DEP or any other agency.)

On June 15 — a month after the canoes were found — comes the first e-mail reference indicating DEP knew anything about any Indian canoes in danger. Dunphy wrote: "Chris Newman (a state archaeologist) reported to Steve Sabia that the deadhead logger on Newnan's Lake (presumably Pinson) had damaged

See E-MAILS, page 19

### DEP Talks To Tribe, Alters Permit For Ocklawaha Logging

By Charles Flowers and Peter B. Gallagher

TALLAHASSEE — The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) amended the permit for a deadhead logging operation on the Ocklawaha River after consulting with the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The new permit provides for a 300-foot buffer zone around an Indian cultural site known as High Bluff.

The decision was a first for Tribal representation in a DEP dredge-and-fill permit, (the site specific license required for each deadhead logging site) according to Dr. Patricia Wickman, Seminole Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO).

The halt also marked the first time deadhead logging on a Florida river was stopped because of a Tribal protest, Dr. Wickman said: "I was very pleased to be able to conference with DEP officials, who politely listened to the Seminoles' point of view. We were allowed to participate in a process that is very important to the Seminole Tribe."

A DEP dredge-and-fill/logging permit was issued to Eric Prokopi of Land O' Lakes on July 27 to take logs from four stretches of the Ocklawaha, between Rodman Dam and the St. John's River, east of Ocala.

While the Tribe had not been notified of the planned Ocklawaha logging, the state Department of Historic Resources (DHR) did receive written notice from DEP several months prior, but failed to comment, despite its duties under the federal Historic Preservation Act. (DHR receives over \$600,000 a year in federal funds to support the actions of a State Historic Preservation Officer, (SHPO). In Florida, the SHPO duties are divided among several bureaucrats, with the title given to DHR Director Jan Matthews.)

According to Wickman, the SHPO is supposed to be "proactive" in monitoring impacts to historical resources within the state. "This includes consulting with the THPO," says Wickman "The SHPO should have been a part of this deadhead logging process from the very beginning. Why the SHPO was not is a mystery to me."

DHR employee and State Archaeologist Jim Miller laid the blame on administrative procedures that made it difficult for his staff to properly review the more than 7,000 dredge-and-fill permits which cross his desk yearly. He says he was never asked by DEP to interact with the process at all.

Deadhead loggers are required, by the DEP, to report the finding of any historical artifact, but instruction in the identification and preservation of antiquities is not part of the curriculum in the classes loggers are required to attend. "These workers are moving all over historical sites and may not even know it," says Wickman. "What may look like an old burned out log to one person, may actually be a 5,000-year-old canoe to a trained observer!"

Last month, Gov. Jeb Bush instigated a ban on deadhead logging on Florida lakes in the wake of reports by the *Seminole Tribune* that seven prehistoric Indian canoes were crushed by a logging operation on Newnan's Lake east of Gainesville.

The DHR failed to challenge the Newnan's permit application even after a staff archaeologist reported damage to two of the ancient canoes in mid-June. Logging resumed in early July, blessed by DHR in an official letter. Five more canoes would be damaged by a bulldozer and other heavy equipment before the logger left with a reported 240 logs, according to the DHR on-site archaeologist Melissa Memory.

A month later, citizen complaints were called in to the *Tribune* regarding potential dangers to artifacts along the permitted areas of the Lower Ocklawaha; Indian mounds and other sites of human occupation are associated with this very area. After a call from Gov. Jeb Bush's office, DEP official Phil Coram allowed both the Tribe and DHR to comment "after the fact" regarding the Ocklawaha.

"I am pleased the Department of State finally reviewed the permit and gave their comments, also. Close coordination between the DEP and the SHPO in the permitting process is an absolute necessity if Florida's Indian heritage is going to be preserved," said Dr. Wickman.

"The Ocklawaha permit revision certainly is evidence that this process can work."

Bush and his five-person Cabinet unanimously approved a resumption of deadhead log-

See OCKLAWAHA, page 19





Peter B. Gallagher

# Sierra Takes On Deadheads

*National and state environmental groups have focused on the deadhead logging issue, following Seminole Tribune articles last month. The following letter was sent, Oct 9, 2000, to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush.*

**Dear Governor Bush,**

The Sierra Club, Northwest Florida Group, has been involved in the deadhead logging issue since December of 1999. At that time we provided comments and photographs for the consideration of the Cabinet, sitting as the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, regarding concerns that arose in the course of the one-year trial period of deadhead logging.

As you know, this practice was reinstated in 1998, under the Chiles administration, after being discontinued in 1974 because of objections raised by the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission, whose major concern was the loss of aquatic habitat. At the 1999 meeting, the Board of Trustees agreed to a four month moratorium on the issuance of any new use agreements, during which time Best Management Practices were to be developed and incorporated into the regulatory permit process.

The Technical Workgroup convened by the DEP (DLTAC) then produced new recommendations for the continued recovery of pre-cut timber, which were subsequently adopted. At the expiration of the moratorium, permitting for deadhead logging resumed under the new rules.

Since that time, new concerns regarding this logging practice have arisen, not the least of which is the Newnan's Lake fiasco which resulted in damage to a portion of the largest ancient canoe find in North America.

The Sierra Club appreciates your decisive action in banning deadhead logging in Florida's lakes until this matter can again be considered by the Governor and Cabinet. This ban is especially appropriate, since lakes were never addressed by the DLTAC. The environmental considerations incorporated into the Best Management Practices were formulated specifically for rivers, and no environmental impact studies, investigations of impacts to threatened and endangered species, recommendations for permit conditions or protection needs for the State's lakes were addressed in any manner whatsoever.

This issue of lake deadhead logging which the Governor, Board of Trustees, and the various State regulatory agencies will consider now calls into question the viability of the entire deadhead logging program. It must be decided whether deadhead logging should be allowed at all in Florida lakes, and if so under what conditions. A careful examination of the current state of deadhead logging in rivers will help provide the information needed to make this decision. In particular, it should be investigated as to whether the permitting process and Best Management Practices for river recovery are effective in protecting environmental and cultural resources that belong to the people of the State of Florida.

The Sierra Club now seriously doubts that the deadhead permitting process, as presently structured, affords Florida's citizens the protection of valuable natural resources that they are entitled to, and we ask that you take the following comments into consideration.

In our comment letter prepared for the December, 1999 Cabinet meeting, we expressed a number of concerns, including the lack of adequate biological surveys performed prior to commencement of logging, the long contiguous stretches of river permitted in a single permit, the generalization of an unproven probable impact to many miles of river without regard for individual variations in habitat, species presence, or scope and duration of the extractions in a particular area, and the scarcity of natural woody debris in the rivers. In fact, in a report on deadhead logging prepared by the DEP in 1999, their Environmental Assessment Section mapped the snag habitat at 64 segments of the Apalachicola and Choctawhatchee Rivers and concluded that "Compared to other southeastern U.S. rivers, this is an extremely low availability of woody debris."

A paper attached to this report, entitled "Ecological and Morphological Significance of Old Deadhead Logs in the Chipola River" by Donald Ray, FDEP NWD Biologist, described the sampling of two submerged logs to determine their habitat value. This paper concluded that "A more diverse and productive wildlife community was found in these two samples of old growth logs than bioassessments of 100 meter reaches of river at the Chipola river reference site near the Altha boat ramp. These findings are similar to the results of a sampling of a deadhead logon the Choctawhatchee River the previous month. Removal of an unquantified amount of the few remaining logs would have a negative impact to the river's fish and wildlife community." We also noted that widespread logging on the land surrounding the rivers has reduced the quantity and type of trees that will become future deadfalls, and further that many of the deadhead logs have been in the rivers for over a hundred years, and although they lack the crowns and root systems of natural deadfalls, they now form a supporting framework for more recent deadfalls. In the same 1999 DEP report, it was stated that "Since woody debris is such an important ecological resource, it is reasonable to recommend that steps be taken to enhance the amount of woody debris in Florida streams." A possible step to accomplish this, as stated in the report, is "Replacement of deadheads with fresh snags to offset the deadhead loss and potential channel de-stabilizing effects of deadhead removal".

Although the final DLTAC recommendations contain a provision to prohibit recovery from stream reaches where woody debris is extremely limited, the pre-recovery assessment resources necessary to make an adequate determination of the location of these areas are plainly inadequate. Only two OPS inspectors, neither of whom are required to be certified divers, are provided for some two dozen plus permits, covering many miles of rivers. It is not possible for these inspectors to mark only those logs which may be harvested, as was suggested at the stakeholders' meeting by a number of environmental organizations. The funds to pay these OPS personnel come from the use agreement fee, which limits the funds available and in effect makes the inspectors employees of the loggers, which creates a conflict of interest. The DLTAC also failed to provide any provisions to replace deadheads with fresh snags to mitigate the effects of their removal.

In addition, our previous concern that a complete biological assessment of individual variations in habitat and species presence on these long river runs would be needed still remains a concern, due to the lack of personnel provided to make these assessments.

The Sierra Club also commented in 1999 that we were concerned about the level of enforcement that could be accomplished. In fact our concern seems justified, in that the DLTAC only provides for a minimum random inspection frequency of one per month. The DEP again cites lack of funds and personnel for a higher level of monitoring.

Although we had many serious concerns about the advisability of continuing to permit deadhead logging, as noted above, we recommended some steps that could be taken to offset some of the environmental damage from this practice. Our 1999 recommendations were to allow logging only in areas where a complete biological study had been completed, to require biologists, not the permittee, to identify the specific logs to be harvested, and to monitor on-site all activities by qualified personnel.

None of these conditions made it into the final DLTAC recommendations.

In 1999, we did not call for an outright ban on deadheading for a number of reasons, the primary one being the Attorney General's Opinion #96-64, rendered in 1996, which in essence stated that logs which had been branded by the original owners could be recovered as lost property, under certain circumstances.

**LEFT: Seminole Chief Billie and state archaeologist Memory look at stern of 30-foot canoe; bow can be seen in foreground.**

In 1998, when the DEP asked the Chiles administration to reinstate deadhead logging for a one year trial period, three reasons were given for doing so. The first, that logging was occurring illegally anyway, is a specious argument that should be discounted in a society that lives by the rule of law, and can be addressed by increasing the penalties for poaching.

The second, that the Attorney General's Opinion allowed recovery of lost property, was taken by the DEP as a rationale for the wholesale issuance of permits statewide, without any prior investigation as to whether or not the waters being permitted for logging did in fact contain branded logs, which would meet the definition of lost property. It was assumed/decided at that time that branded logs were everywhere, mixed up together with the unbranded, and that the use agreement fee paid by the loggers is considered payment to the State for those unbranded logs. No provision was made for a prior determination as to the percentage or quantity of branded logs in a given location. In Newnan's Lake, observers have reported that the logs were not branded. In the paper referred to above by Donald Ray, he notes that "The permit applicant said logs in the Chipola River were not branded historically like in other Panhandle rivers." The Chipola River has been dammed to create Dead Lakes, which is presently being logged. It is reasonable to assume that if the logs in the Chipola River were not branded, then the logs which ended up in Dead Lakes also were not, and so we have a second instance of a lake permit that, if the AG's opinion were to be strictly applied, might not have qualified under the presumption of lost property.

When the DLTAC made the recommendations which ended the 1999 moratorium, it failed to provide adequate staff to make sufficient surveys prior to permitting, and it failed to require staff to be certified divers, thereby making it impossible to determine in advance whether branded logs exist in a particular river reach, and if so, if there are sufficient numbers to justify the environmental risk of recovery. Therefore, the use agreement as structured is faulty in two ways. It allows logging even when the Attorney General's Opinion appears not to apply, and it produces insufficient remuneration to the State, relative to the value of the property being harvested.

The third reason given for the reinstatement was the economic impact on Panhandle fishermen from the recently enacted net ban, and this logging activity was presented as a way to replace some of the income lost from the ban. In reality, however, the beneficiaries of the State's generosity are not the displaced fishermen. The true beneficiaries are the owners of very expensive homes being built in the rapidly developing panhandle, who purchase the end product in the form of floors, stairs, windows, and custom furniture manufactured from the last of this old growth lumber that will not be available for many, many generations, or perhaps never again. At the March 31, 2000 Stakeholders' meeting, John Terry, Santa Rosa Beach mill owner, discussed the economic impacts of this activity. He gave, as an example, a figure of 2,000 board feet of timber worked through the system, and stated that this produces about \$1,750.00 in sales tax, and employs 30 -35 people. Using this figure, at Walton County's 7%tax rate, the final consumer price paid works out to be \$25,000.00, or about \$12.50 per foot. The DEP's 1999 report to the Cabinet stated that it is estimated that 300,000 feet of high grade lumber rests at the bottom of the Blackwater and Yellow Rivers alone. At \$12.50 per foot, 300,000 feet of timber should ultimately sell for \$3,750,000, and produce \$262,500 in sales tax revenue at the State (6%) level, and as this lumber becomes even more scarce, it is probable that the end user price paid will only increase. Clearly, this logging is a big money maker. When the DEP was asked at the Stakeholders' meeting how the \$5,500 use agreement fee was determined, they stated that it was determined from the best estimates available at the time, provided by the loggers themselves, based on the average number of logs which could be recovered by a two man team in a year, and that it was considered to be fair, equitable and fairly easy. This fee is paid into the Internal Improvement Trust Fund. So, the use agreement ties the enforcement and training funds to the fee paid by the loggers, who are at the bottom of the economic pyramid in this activity. These fees do not provide for sufficient funding to protect environmental and cultural resources. The loggers themselves say that they are not getting wealthy from this work, and cannot afford to pay a higher use agreement fee, but it should be obvious from the industry's own example cited above that other monies are flowing into State coffers and should be made available to provide the needed funding to properly monitor deadhead logging.

There is also another issue raised by the Newnan's Lake incident, which is the interest of Florida's Indian Tribes in the deadhead logging industry. The permit condition presently in use states that if historical or archaeological artifacts are discovered by the logger, the permittee shall immediately notify the DHR. There is no assurance that the logger will recognize such an artifact, there is no enforcement to ensure compliance with the notification requirement, and there is no stop-work provision to provide the State or the Tribes with an opportunity to protect the artifacts. There is also no provision to notify the Tribes in advance of a permit approval, which should be required in areas with demonstrated historical Indian presence, as the Tribes themselves may then have a presumption of Tribal interest or ownership to the unbranded logs. The State Historic Preservation Officer should recognize that the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes are successors-in-interest to the Indians who were here prior to the Seminole Wars. The State should also then recognize that, where there are no brands, there is a presumption of Indian heritage and that these unbranded logs may have been felled by the predecessors of the Tribes and may therefore in fact be the property of the Tribes.

In summary, the Sierra Club makes the following conclusions and recommendations:

Deadhead logging should be banned from the State's lakes entirely. It has the potential to cause great environmental damage because lakes provide important aquatic habitat, do not flush well, and the particular environmental safeguards needed were not addressed by the DEP. Additionally, it appears that most if not all of the logs recovered to date from lakes have not been branded.

Deadhead logging in rivers which contain sufficient numbers of branded logs that indicate prior private ownership and therefore warrant application of the lost property laws should only be allowed to continue with an independent, on-board observer on every logging operation and every trip. These observers should be qualified to determine the effects of the operation on habitat, species presence, woody debris content, bank stability, and any other pertinent environmental factors. They should also be trained divers, and able to recognize historical and cultural artifacts. They should be empowered to decide which logs may and may not be harvested, with the protection of environmental and historical resources their sole agenda. They should be hired and paid independently by State funds and they should not be beholden to any particular State agency or to the loggers and the pre-cut timber industry. The permitting process should be restructured to separate the funding from the processor so as to prevent any conflict of interest, and to require that all interested parties, including the Indian Tribes, receive sufficient prior knowledge before a permit is approved. If significant Indian artifacts, such as canoes, are discovered, the unbranded logs discovered on site should be required to be dated in order to establish ownership.

It is imperative that swift action be taken to protect the interests of all the citizens of Florida. Environmental, economic, historical and cultural concerns can all be protected, but only with decisive leadership from the Government of the State of Florida. Sincerely,

**Tiana Burton  
Conservation Chair, Sierra Club  
Northwest Florida Group**



# E-mails

Continued from page 1

an indian (sic) canoe that was clearly marked as a historic (sic) site. Melissa Memory (?) is on site and can be reached at cellular . . . If you can, please check this out today.”

(Dunphy’s question mark indicates he did not know that Melissa Memory was a state archaeologist working for the Buereau of Archaeological Research (BAR) on Newnan’s Lake.)

June 15 was the date Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers were called to Newnan’s Lake by Memory. An investigation by FWC Sgt. Chip Bradshaw halted Pinson’s logging operation for three weeks.

On June 20, while Pinson had temporarily stopped his work, DEP’s Tietjen reported, “According to Memory, extensive damage was being done intentionally.” Tietjen also says he spoke to FWC’s Bradshaw, who had interviewed both Memory and Pinson: “There are inconsistencies in the statements but to highlight them we need to transcribe two hours of taped interview and compare it to Memory’s statement. Memory reportedly has videotape showing willful damage in progress. Bradshaw hasn’t seen it.”

Neither had Tietjen. Nor would he make any independent investigation beyond Crider, and another lake resident who readily admitted he had harvested logs.

Two days later, Bradshaw sent an e-mail to Tietjen which included Bradshaw’s FWC investigation; it included copies of statements from Memory, McGee and East Side High School teacher Steve Everett about damage to canoes, as well as Pinson’s story of the damage. Bradshaw also sent Tietjen a map detailing the sites of the alleged damage to canoes.

On Sept. 5 – 45 days after the logger finished his logging at Newnan’s — Tietjen finally filed his (May 25 to June 6) investigation report. He had apparently still not reviewed either the taped or written statements taken by Bradshaw, or Memory’s videotape of Pinson allegedly logging in a restricted historic area.

Instead, he wrote: “The focus of this investigation was Mr. Dale Crider.” By this time, Crider, a retired FWC biologist, had taken his complaints to Gov. Jeb Bush and Attorney General Bob Butterworth.

Tietjen also showed FWC officer, Jim Sullivan, who he said “had been involved with Steve Everett in protecting Indian artifacts on the Northeast shore of the lake.”(Everett calls that statement “horse manure.”)

In fact, following Bradshaw’s report of Sullivan’s activities on behalf of the logger -- and a Seminole Tribune report published on the Internet -- FWC would launch an internal investigation of the officer for working on his own with the Pinson. Witnesses charged Sullivan with a conflict of interest, saying he wore his badge and gun while working plainclothes with Pinson.

(According to FWC Capt. John Moran, the internal investigation had not concluded, and as of Oct. 13 Sullivan has not been disciplined or suspended.)

Tietjen did speak to Everett and noted in his Sept. 5 report that Everett “pointed out at least two ‘canoes’ which had been damaged. To me, these canoes appeared to be two foot by eighteen-inch portion of burned log. On 05 June, I requested that the active investigation be suspended. Crider had been told to take no more logs from the lake, Pinson was operating on his permit from the department, Sgt. Bradshaw and Officer Sullivan of FWCC had the artifact investigation in hand. At about this point Ms. Memory entered the scene.”

(As an investigator, Tietjen was a bad archaeologist. His boss, Roberts, had been notified of the canoes six weeks before Tietjen’s Sept. 5 report. Tietjen failed to note that Sullivan was working for Pinson and not representing FWC at the Newnan’s logging site -- despite the fact Pinson told Bradshaw he had hired Sullivan. Nor did Tietjen realize that Memory had been on the scene since mid-May when the canoes were first found; she lives near Newnan’s Lake.)

Memory did not endear herself to Pinson or the DEP. E-mails suggest her presence — flagging artifacts and monitoring the scene, video camera in hand — as antagonistic. Incredibly, she was asked to leave the site by her own boss at DHR — Ryan Wheeler, (who signed the DHR letter which allowed Pinson to resume his work after the three-week halt ordered by FWC).

Other than Crider glaring from his backyard

-- he had been threatened with arrest and ordered to stay away by FWC -- Memory’s departure left the logging unmonitored. On July 12, Crider noted in an e-mail: “As the following e-mail from me to the Governor will indicate, I have not observed the care and protection a private citizen might expect from the Department of Environmental Protection.”

Included in Crider’s concerns was fear the hostile confrontations with the logger might erupt in violence. An undated e-mail from Crider to Jeremy Tyler of DEP noted that “Mr. Pinson became bitterly threatening and shouted to me ‘get away from here and go back to your house’ . . . This confrontation is serious and I believe it warrants your office calling a halt to this man’s deadheading determination until this issue can be peaceably discussed . . . ”

On Aug. 18, long after Pinson had finished his logging, he e-mailed DEP inspector Steve Schaper that he was innocent of the charges made by Everett, McGee and Memory in sworn statements to Chip Bradshaw: (see related e-mail at right.)

“If all three claimed that I destroyed 2 canoes east of the mill site (not true) then where is the proof, you know photos, excavations, etc. How about the stolen ‘canoe’? I saved it, it still sits at the sawmill untouched, a monument to er . . . uh . . . shortcomings, let’s say.”

The “stolen” canoe may refer to another historic canoe which Memory believed was on Pinson’s log pile. There is no evidence that Schaper or anyone else asked to see it to determine whether it was or was not one of the many canoes dating from 3000 B.C. to 1500 A.D. found at the site during the period of Pinson’s logging.

## ‘Rare Mussels and Sponges’

Pinson would show he shared Tietjen’s archaeological expertise and doubts about whether the Newnan’s Lake artifacts were really canoes in two other e-mails to DEP. On Sept. 5, he e-mailed what he calls “newnan’s desert photos.” He refers to them as “rare mussels and sponges.” On Sept. 18, he forwarded a joke about a man who supposedly sends a Barbie doll head to the Smithsonian.

Later in his Aug. 15 letter, Pinson revealed his feelings for Crider, who is well-known for his folk songs about Florida’s environment:

“If and when the BOT (Board of Trustees) axes the deadhead logging program, can I continue to pull logs as long as I write cutesy songs about saving the environment? Do I have to really be suffering from dementia or can I just fake that part?”

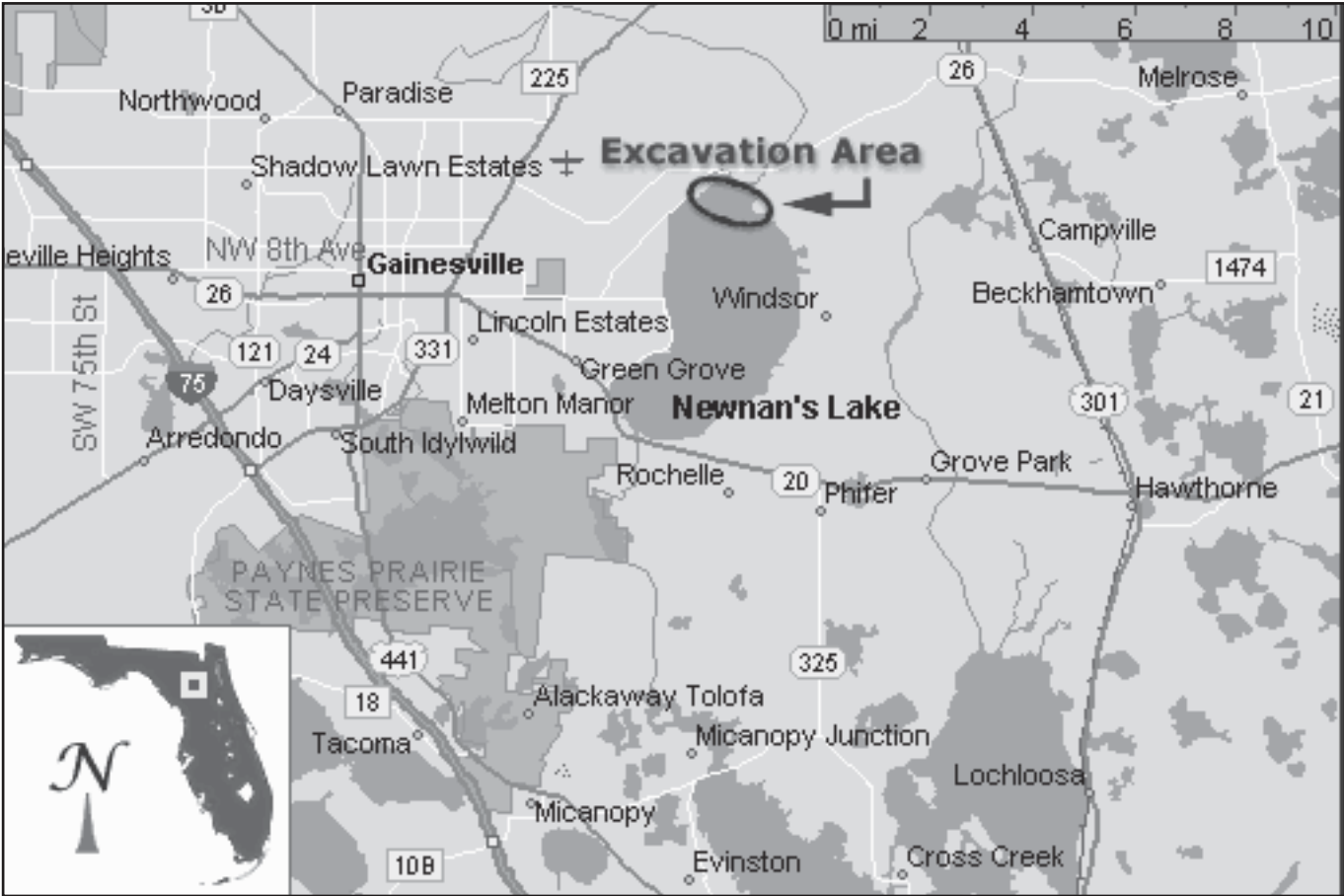
On Aug. 16, Schaper, who was paid out of permit fees collected by DEP from deadhead loggers like Pinson, expressed sympathy for Pinson’s predicament. By that time, Pinson had been told he could not return to Newnan’s Lake to get additional timbers he had left there.

“When you decided on Newnans, no one realized that this would all come about.” Schaper wrote. “Power of the media and controversy sells papers. As far as the DEP is concerned you were/are within your permit (very well in fact) and I wish there was something I could do for you personally.”

Schaper’s colleagues also began to distrust the media. As Eaton wrote in an Aug. 23 memo to Gordon Roberts and Phil Coram, his supervisors at DEP, inquiries by *Seminole Tribune* reporters were no longer welcome:

“We have had several direct contacts with a reporter by the name of Charles Flowers regarding deadhead logging in Newnans Lake,” Eaton advised. “I do not think that it is appropriate for our staff to have direct contact with Mr. Flowers.”

By Aug. 29, Coram — the upper-level DEP official who approves the deadhead logging permits — would reach the same conclusion: “My feeling is that the *Tribune* will continue to write stories on Newnans (sic) Lake critical of DEP and SHR, agency finger pointing, failure to coordinate, etc. Seems like these reporters have nothing else on their plate and can spend a significant amount of time on this issue. In addition they apparently have copies of FWC and SHR documents that have not been provided to DEP as far as I can tell.”



Map shows location of historic site at Newnan’s Lake; canoes and other artifacts are spread over a two-mile area.

# ‘Dem Deadhead Blues’

**An Aug. 15 e-mail from Santa Rosa Beach logger L.C. “Chuck” Pinson to DEP officials Gordon Roberts and Steve Schaper. Roberts is in charge of compliance and enforcement. Schaper was the inspector hired in May to oversee Pinson’s operation on Newnan’s Lake. Pinson’s subject heading is labeled ‘dem deadhead blues’**

Steve,

Thanks for the heads up on the proposed CRA, now I’m SURE it will be carefully weighed... and quick and positive results will surely follow... and if you believe that then I’ve got some submerged Florida lake bottom I’ll sell you, it’s mine, really, part of an old Spanish land grant...

So, since you are my handler now, answer a few questions for me.

How do I clear my name, is there an “undelete” when one has been falsely accused of totally destroying the ENTIRE environment? How about deliberately destroying any and every archaeological site and artifact within 5 miles of Newnans Lake? Will this go on my permanent record?

In playing the HIDDEN AGENDA game, is it important to have evidence or truth on your side, or will wild allegations, false statement and outright lies suffice?

How was M. Memory able to avoid providing a sworn statement as to damages even when requested by the investigation officer? (everyone else involved had to). If all three claimed that I destroyed 2 canoes east of the mill site (not true) then where is the proof, you know photos, excavations etc.? How about the stolen “canoe”? Does anyone still think that it is a canoe? I saved it, it sits at the sawmill untouched, a monument to er...uh...shortcomings, let’s say. And how DOES one make false allegations, libel, slanderous, mali-

(In fact, Coram’s staff did have the FWC investigation; it was sent to Tietjen, whose e-mails suggest he ignored it. Tietjen also did not show the report to Gordon Roberts, who told the *Tribune* FWC never sent it, or to Russ Frydenburg, who wrote the Aug. 30 faux post-assessment report that cleared Pinson of deadhead artifact damage.)

“Although not archaeologists, we saw no evidence that these artifacts had been damaged, and Mr. Schaper confirmed that the permittee avoided this area after it was found,” said Frydenburg’s report.

Eaton attached this revealing note: “Maybe this will now all go away.”

It was Crider they wanted. The following day, an e-mail from Pinson to DEP referred to Crider as “Roost man.”

In a little more than four months, the DEP focused its investigation on the first whistle-blower (Crider), disparaged the second (Memory), entertained insults of these and other affected parties with the man whose operation they were supposed to monitor (Pinson), and embargoed the press (Flowers and Gallagher).

The FWC, while conducting the most thorough investigation of any law enforcement agency contacted (including, notably, Attorney Gen. Bob Butterworth’s office whose representative said it lacked jurisdiction over DEP), also permitted an employee to accept payment for work on behalf of the logger Pinson — with no penalty to date.

And the DHR, one of the few agencies to receive a copy of Pinson’s permit application for review, failed to pre-chal-

lenge the logging operation on archaeological grounds, even though it had direct evidence from reliable sources that Indian canoes were being found on Newnan’s Lake in great number. Even when damage was documented, DHR failed to call a permanent halt.

In fact, the logger planned to return to Newnan’s, with the blessing of DEP and the ambivalence of DHR, to pick up the logs he missed on the first run.

It wasn’t until Aug. 28 — three-and-a-half months after the canoes had been found — that Gov. Jeb Bush stepped in the middle of bickering state officials and asked DEP’s Coram to stop all logging on Florida lakes.

The e-mail flowing during all of this paints portraits of irresponsibility: blind boosterism and denial by the DEP, dereliction of duty by DHR, and conflict of interest, by FWC.

Pinson himself, though pleasant enough in conversations with the *Tribune*, reveals himself in these e-mails to be something of a bully, whose tactics were supported by what he called “God in my back pocket” — a permit granted by DEP.

“The DEP is spelled G-O-D,” Pinson told the *Tribune*.

If that is true, these e-mails show it is a forgiving god. And a contrite one.

In the wake of the controversy, both DEP and DHR are struggling to improve public notification procedures. A Sept. 7 memo from Roberts requires all deadhead logging permit holders to publish a public notice in the newspaper for areas where their logging activities will take place: “It will help in areas where we have some special concerns that we are not aware of.”

Still, no state official has yet to apologize for damage to the reputations of Crider or Memory, bullied away from their watch of Newnan’s Lake and its treasures, both environmental and historical.

Despite some state officials’ fondest hopes, this issue is not going away.



After archaeologist Melissa Memory videotaped the logger in a restricted area, her boss at the state DHR told her to stay home.

# Nature

Continued from page 1

tect the bones of their ancestors, and bore the remains in solemn procession to another place where they might, finally, rest in peace.

Meanwhile, in Florida, on a postage-stamp-sized piece of land beside the Miami River, nature returned another piece of the past to us and, again, the lesson was startling. The “Miami Circle,” as it has come to be known, is also unique in the entire United States, and it is also a reminder of the tremendous equity of the Indians in this land. But, above all, in each of these cases, the message has always been that same: look closely at the things that *you* value, and compare them to the things that *nature* values. Look beyond your tiny human concerns and learn your place in the order

of the seen and unseen universe. This is the circular world of the Indians. Realize that human beings are not at the top of nature’s hierarchy. Because *nature has no hierarchy*. All of the elements of the world that we see and sense, and even the ones that we do not, have their own right to exist. And human beings have no unilateral right, or mandate from any god, to upset the natural order. Nature moves in its own time, not according to the dictates of arbitrary, human, desires. And its movements are inexorable. We may choose to ignore them, but only at our ultimate peril. Sooner or later, we’ll have to pay attention. Let’s not wait until it’s too late.

**— Dr. Patricia R. Wickman is Director of Anthropology and Genealogy for the Seminole Tribe of Florida. She is also the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer**

# Ocklawaha

Continued from page 1

giving this past April, after a four-month ban caused by environmental concerns. The practice, also banned for 25 years before former Gov. Lawton Chiles reinstated it in 1998, currently allows loggers to recover timbers that sank in rivers when old-growth pine and cypress forests were cut in the early 1900s. The valuable timbers produce fine-grain lumber that can sell for as much as \$12 a board foot.

Newnan’s Lake (*Pithlachocco*) was already known as a rich archaeological site before the DEP issued a deadhead logging permit last May to Charles Pinson of Santa Rosa Beach. A distinctive arrowhead called “Newnan’s Point” is associated with archaeological sites on the lake. “The word Newnan should have jumped out at them,” says Dale Crider, the Lake

resident who was first to complain about the logging. “I would say there is a huge communications problem among these state agencies.”

In the wake of the *Pithlachocco* and Ocklawaha crises, efforts have ensued at improving communications between DEP and DHR and the Florida Indian Tribes. The DEP has assigned its ombudsman to the case and Ft. Lauderdale resident Dr. Benji Brumberg has spent much of his time over the past several months massaging solutions from the complex inter-agency problems the issue presents. The tireless Brumberg has toured the *Pithlachocco* site with Seminole Chief Jim Billie and met with Tribal officials in Hollywood; at presstime he was pulling together a rare inter-agency/inter-government meeting among state agencies and Indians.

DEP has offered to include specific site locations to DHR so that the agency (charged with protecting historic

and cultural artifacts) can match the permit applications to a cultural site map. DHR has also sent a written apology to the Tribe for failing to notify the Seminoles, or to act in their behalf, as the Newnan’s Lake conflict erupted.

DEP officials have also offered to include the Tribe on pre-assessment logging tours to lessen the chance of damage to cultural sites.

“Prior to all of this, I don’t ever remember historical artifacts being discussed at all,” during deadhead logging policy meetings, says Governor’s Aide Boscan. “The chance that canoes or other antiquities would be involved was never considered. The fact the Indians would be concerned about deadhead logging was never even considered.”

“You see?” says Wickman. “That is what I mean. Those ancient canoes are extremely important to the Seminoles. The Indians must be, and will be, considered.”



# Pithlachocco

Continued from page 1

Florida Indians, says Dr. Patricia Wickman, the Seminole Tribe Director of Anthropology and Genealogy: “This find is unique in the United States, but there is nothing surprising here. It only surprises the non-Indians. The area we now call Florida has been a refuge for human beings for 12,000 years.

“The Seminole people have traditions that tie them to Florida for many thousands of years. It is only up to us to confirm what the Seminole people and their ancestors have always known: that they have tremendous equity in the state of Florida. Two of the strongest evidences of this truth, to date, are the Miami Circle and *Pithlachocco*.”

## Deadhead Damage

The canoe site was partially destroyed by a deadhead logging operation permitted by the state. Purdy and other archaeologists advised the state of the fragile historical treasures 10 days before a logger began dragging logs from the same dry lake bed. State officials, locking horns on jurisdictional issues, were unable to accomodate archaeologists and numerous citizen complainers, some of whom also alleged environmental damage.

Articles on the issue published by the *Seminole Tribune* led to an Aug. 28 request from Gov. Jeb Bush to shut down the *Pithlachocco* – and all lakes—logging until the Cabinet can meet again on the issue.

Disturbingly, most of the archaeological site damage took place after the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) learned that the logging – permitted by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on May 26 — was damaging the canoes.

Seven of the 87 canoes were damaged, according to Melissa Memory, the archaeologist who documented canoe damage in photographs and videotape. Seminole Chairman Billie, upset that state officials had not notified the Tribe of the find, flew to the lake site, to see the canoes – damaged and undamaged – first hand.

“This is a great event for the Seminoles,” said Billie, who was credited by Secretary of State Harris for fast-tracking the radiocarbon dating after his visit. When state archaeologist Jim Miller indicated budget problems would delay the *Pithlachocco* radiocarbon work, Billie offered to pay for the science if they could be done right away. DHR Director Jan Matthews declined Billie’s offer, but moved the *Pithlachocco* canoe radiocarbon work to top priority in her agency.

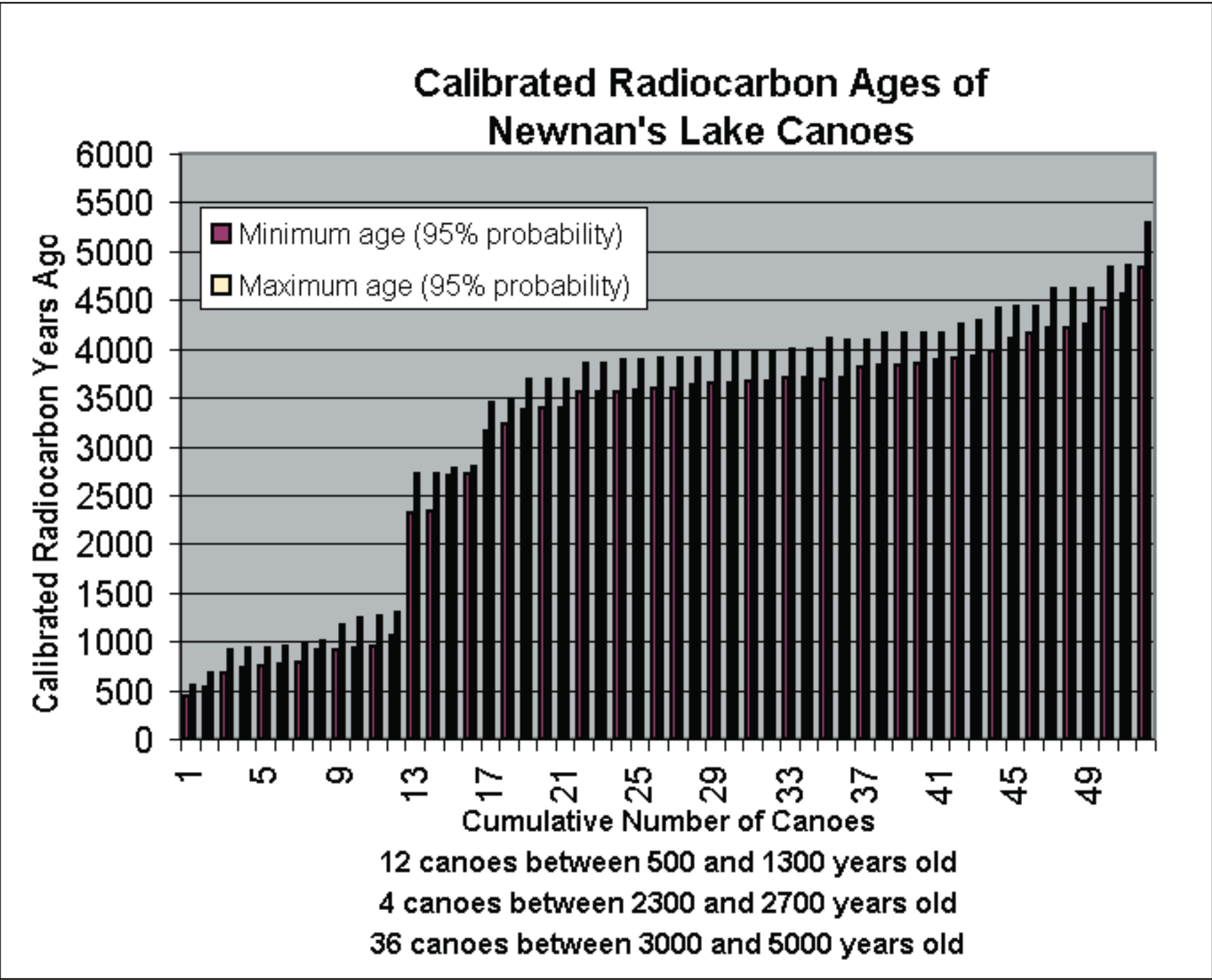
“We Indians will feel pride and dignity when we talk of those canoes. The Indians who made them have honored us tremendously and for that I will always be grateful.” Billie also called for a return of the lake’s original name. It was renamed after Maj. Dan Newnan, a 19th century Indian fighter. (For the complete text of the Chairman’s statement, see page 2.)

## Ancient Days

The time-span of the dated canoes suggests indigenous peoples have occupied the site since ancient times.

According to the English Bible, the Great Flood of the Old Testament occurred 2,348 years before the birth of Jesus Christ. The Hebrew Bible places the Flood at 2288 B.C. The difference between the two dates is 60 years – close to the error factor in the radiocarbon dating process. The first book of standard Christian and Catholic bibles, the *Book of Genesis*, dates back 6,000 years, making it concurrent with the DeLeon Springs canoe.

Archaeologists measure time differently than Bible scholars. According to Jim Miller, state archaeologist, there have been people in Florida for more than 12,000 years. Evidence includes a charred stick, found in the carapace of a giant tortoise at the bottom of Warm Mineral Springs near Sarasota. That was radiocarbon dated to an age of 12,600 years. In 1996, Kennewick Man – a skeleton determined to be



Graph calculates the vast range and distribution of ages for the 52 radiocarbon dated aboriginal canoe samples from Newnan’s Lake.

a Native American – was found at the bottom of the Columbia River in Washington state with a full set of teeth and an arrowhead stuck in his hip. He was 9,000 years old.

The find at Newnan’s Lake, while comparatively only half as old, offers other ancient puzzles. Seventy percent of the *Pithlachocco* canoes tested between 3,000 and 5,000 years old, Secretary Harris reported. Four of the craft were dated between 2,300 and 2,700 years old. And the remainder fall into the “modern” category – between 500 and 1,300 years old.

“I was stumped to figure out how so many canoes wound up in one place,” Miller said. “Of course, with these dates stretching over so many years, it helps us understand that a little more. But it is still incredible that they are all there, and in such condition for their age.”

One theory Miller offers may explain the sudden proliferation of human life in Florida 5,000 years ago: it literally sprang from the ground. Freshwater springs bubbled up and filled Newnan’s Lake, possibly for the first time since the Ice Age.

“This new data demonstrates the great importance of water transportation among Florida’s native people, and their reliance on the rich resources of the region we know today as Newnan’s Lake,” Secretary Harris said. She said that the dating “confirmed the extraordinary antiquity of the largest find of aboriginal dugout canoes known in the United States.”

The canoes ranged in length from 15 to 31 feet.

## Seminole/Maskoki Canoes

Ray McGee, who did partial excavations of several of the canoes when he, Purdy and Erika Simons of Gainesville found the first seven on May 16, said it is extremely difficult to detect any differences between the most ancient and modern canoes.

“By looking at them, I couldn’t tell the newest from the oldest,” McGee said. He said “at least half” of the canoes he examined had thwarts, or raised areas in the center where a paddler could brace himself as he poled or paddled the craft.

Closer study may also reveal which were carved with metal tools. Purdy said metal tools came to Florida after European contact, which began less than 500 years ago, in 1513 A.D. Before that, Indians are believed to have used shell or stone tools to scrape dugout canoes, after first charring the insides. Neither the Tribe nor the state has any plans for removing any of the canoes.

Purdy, the author of academic articles on Indian canoes and a chapter in “The Art and Archaeology of Florida Wetlands,” said the latest radiocarbon findings “suggest that there aren’t a lot of Seminole canoes out there, because there weren’t a lot of Seminoles out there.”

However, Dr. Wickman calls that position “no longer defensible.” The Seminoles, she main-

tains, are descendants of a “major cultural family”: the *Maskoki* peoples of the Southeast. Dr. Wickman (see her column on page 17), has been invited to a state level summit meeting on the future of deadhead logging, along with representatives of Gov. Bush, the DEP, DHR, and the Poarch Creek Band of Alabama Indians, who have members living in Northwest Florida.

The meeting is set for Nov. 6 at Secretary Harris’ office in Tallahassee.

The Governor and Cabinet will also revisit the issue in November, says Cabinet aide Jose Boscan. Environmentalists, led by the national Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy and the Florida Wildlife Federation, plan to use the *Pithlachocco* incident to strengthen their case for more restrictions – perhaps even a total ban – of the controversial dead-head logging practice in Florida waters.

“Ironically, there is no land or water area in this state that has not been walked upon or used by a human being over the past many milleniums,” says Dr. Wickman. “I don’t know where in Florida they could log without the chance of coming into contact with historical artifacts.”

*For complete coverage of the Pithlachocco canoes, log onto the Seminole Tribe’s official website at [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com).*

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showtimes

**Oct. 24**  
Immokalee Gymnasium 7 p.m.

**Oct. 25**  
Big Cypress Gymnasium 1 p.m.

**Oct. 26**  
Brighton Gymnasium 7 p.m.

**Oct. 27**  
Miccosukee Indian School 10 a.m.

**Oct. 27**  
Hollywood Auditorium 8 p.m.

**Shah-who-pah-ye-ke**

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