



Newnan's Lake tragedy, see Special Section.



Chief Billie plays for Children's Hospital, page 12.



Posing for Shootout, page 3.



Seminole chickees chopped down by USET, below.



# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

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## Governor Stops Lake Logging

By Peter B. Gallagher

**TALLAHASSEE** — One month after the *Seminole Tribune* began an investigation into a state scandal involving the permitting of deadhead logging on Gainesville's Newnan's Lake, Gov. Jeb Bush has asked that the controversial industry be immediately stopped on all fresh-water Florida lakes.

The request was made Aug. 28 in a phone call from Jose Boscan of the Governor's Cabinet office to Phil Coram, Chief of the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Bureau of Submerged Lands and Environmental Services. A DEP permit issued from Coram's office last May allowed a Panhandle-based logging operation to damage the largest ancient canoe site in North American history and wreak environmental havoc on and around the lake, according to state officials and environmentalists.

Coram told the *Tribune* that he has ordered Newnan's and all Florida lakes added to the state's "Prohibitive Water Bodies" list. "It will remain that way until we get an application for deadhead logging on a lake. Then it will have to be brought back before the Trustees (Governor and Cabinet)," said Coram, who says no lake site application is currently among the 22 on DEP's deadhead table.

Santa Rosa Beach logger L.C. Pinson has been the subject of criticism for his harvesting operation on the drought-exposed Newnan's lakebed last June and July. Though Pinson has been accused of a number of environmental and archaeological miscues in investigations conducted by both the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) and the state Department of Historical resources (DHR), he claims innocence.

See DEADHEAD, page 3



NATIVE AMERICAN MUSIC DAY: William Osceola at Fort Lauderdale's Las Olas River Front, page 5.

## Taking Responsibility For Our Past, As Well As Our Future!

By Patricia Wickman

What constitutes "value" in our lives, as individuals, and in our collective lives as a community of Floridians? Do we assign value only to things that we can see and touch — a high-rise office building, another block of condominiums, or even a beautiful cultural arts center? What about the things that we can't see? What about the elements of our individual and collective lives that don't come equipped with "\$" signs and don't fit neatly into money market accounts and draw returns that can be computed with compound interest? How do we assign value to those parts of our lives?



These considerations lie at the very core of the controversy that has arisen recently over the discovery, in Newnan's Lake in Alachua County, Florida, of the largest single cache of Indian dugout canoes ever found in the United States. And it's not just the assignment of being "largest" or "first" that gives this discovery such immediacy in our lives. It's the bedrock question of values; in this case, the short-term value of a few logs that can be salvaged from the lake bed for the profit of a single individual, weighed against the long term value of respecting the past and honoring the intrinsic, and inherent, value of the people who created it. Reporters Pete Gallagher and Charles Flowers outlined the story in the last issue of the *Seminole Tribune* and their details appear elsewhere in this issue also.

The people who created this specific past were Native peoples — there were no Native "Americans" then, nor were there any "Indians" in the English lexicon. Make no mistake about it, however, these *were* the

See HOLASKOAN page 3

## Tribe Cuts Deal With Wet Blade

By Dan McDonald

**CHEYENNE, Wyo.** — Most likely you've never heard of a Burch Wet Blade — but Tom Burch and the Seminole Tribe of Florida are betting you will soon.

Burch, of Boone, N.C., is the inventor of what is being hailed as the most revolutionary vegetation management system since the rotary mower. The Seminole Tribe — through Chairman James Billie — has become an investor and partner in bringing the Wet Blade into full production. And, based on what's been shown so far, there's a Wet Blade in your future.

"Carl Baxley (Hollywood Board Representative) brought Tom Burch and the Wet Blade to my attention and we flew to North Carolina to look at it," Billie says of the Tribe's interest in the Wet Blade.

"I took one look at it and saw it was very innovative and a new design and realized it could mow grass and spread herbicide or fertilizer all in the turn of a blade. I thought it was something we should be involved with because there is grass all over the world."

While it only took one look at the innovative system to impress James Billie, it has been a long time from idea to production for Tom Burch.

"We've been refining the Wet Blade system for 10 years and performing many demonstration plots across the United States at the same time," Burch, the affable 59-year-old inventor says while striding across a section of Wyoming prairie where a test plot has shown the Wet Blades's extraordinary effectiveness in controlling weeds.

"But, I can't tell you how exciting things are for the Burch Wet Blade team right now. We've finally perfected the Wet Blade and the chemical distribution system and at the same time we're getting the results in from our test plots. Everything is looking good. I'm real confident the Wet Blade system is going to change the way the world looks at weed management."

If Burch sounds enthusiastic — and he does — it's based on growing evidence his decade-long struggle to perfect the Wet Blade is poised to take root in the multi-billion dollar world of vegetation management.

"I started tinkering in my garage to develop this idea in 1990," Burch says. "The first machine was a two-engine lawn mower device. It took five years of testing and refining to get it so it worked the way I wanted."

"Then, someone asked if I could put a Wet Blade

on brush hog. I said, 'I didn't see why not.' The result was a lot more work. We had to invent things that didn't exist to make the whole system function. And, we've been refining it ever since. But, we're finally there. We have all the bugs worked out of the Wet Blade system now."

With a production factory in Wilkesboro and financial backing in place, the up side for the Burch Wet Blade is unlimited. In fact, given half a chance, Burch, who holds or has 12 Wet Blade patents pending in over 100 countries, will gladly tell you he sees the day when every blade on every lawn mower, bush hog or gang mower will be a Wet Blade. And, he just might be right.

What is a Wet Blade? Essentially, it's a redesigned blade that fits on a mowing device — such as a lawn mower or a bush hog. The difference is the Wet Blade has an aerodynamic design that holds fluid along the cutting edge. Even while the blade is spinning at 200



Wet Blade inventor Tom Burch (center) describes advantages of his system.

mph, the liquid is held in place. If that sounds impossible, Tom Burch has a ready analogy.

"Did you ever ride in your car during a rain storm and have a drop of water stay on your side window even though you're driving at 70 mph?" he asks. "Well, the Wet Blade uses air currents like the one holding the drop of water. The Wet Blade is designed to use air flow to hold the fluid on the bottom edge." Coupled with the actual blade is a radar gun that determines the speed

See WET BLADE, page 8

## Council Questions Construction Bills

By E. Bowers

**HOLLYWOOD** — The Tribal Council blanched at the exorbitant costs of planned, current and finished construction projects during a special Council meeting, Aug. 31.

The Council was first presented with the \$305,868 bill charged by Close Construction for renovating the Brighton Hot Meals Building.

"That doesn't sound right for some reason," said Chairman James Billie. When told that the building would only serve an average of 30-40 people a day, the Chairman asked for a closer look at the construction costs, which were approved pending a review.

"We're going to question it," said Billie about the renovation costs.

Next up were the costs charged by Lodge Construction for the expansion and construction of the Brighton Medical Center: \$1.5 million.

"They're going to expand it?" asked Billie. "For \$1.5 million they could knock it down and build a new one!"

The costs were approved when told that construction had already begun.

After being hit with a \$500,000 estimate for security and electrical costs for the Hollywood Multi-Purpose Center, not included in the original contract, the Chairman was absolutely dumbfounded when told the costs for the recently constructed Big Cypress Hunting Adventures boat ramp totaled \$195,000 due to environmental and permit fees.

The proposed Immokalee Entertainment Complex was the first project to be axed. When told the total costs of constructing the 47,000 square-foot facility would be approximately \$12 million, the Chairman placed the project on the back burner for further review.

The Council did approve a hotel to be built in Immokalee, but set a spending cap of \$7 million, based upon a feasibility study ordered by the Board of Directors. Chairman Billie stated that the Council would build the facility, but allow the Board to manage it.

## Seminole Chickees Chopped Down

By Peter B. Gallagher

**NASHVILLE** — The saga of the USET Chickees is over — they've all been unceremoniously chopped down and the Big Cypress thatch and poles have been thrown in the dumpster.

This was discovered by Seminole Chairman James Billie on his recent stop at the headquarters for the United South and Eastern Tribes (USET) here in Music City.

The chickees had been built by the Chairman more than six years ago on property leased

See USET, page 3

## Miccosukee Suit Stops Commercial Airboat Tours

By E. Bowers

**MIAMI** — U.S. District Court Judge Lenore Nesbitt granted the Miccosukee Tribe's Partial Motion for Summary Judgement in its lawsuit against the National Park Service on Aug. 24.

The order halts commercial airboat tour companies from operating within the Big Cypress National Preserve Addition lands.

The Tribe's lawsuit, filed in 1998, claimed the National Park Service violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) by authorizing airboat companies to operate within the Addition Lands without the required Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Judge Nesbitt ruled, "Although it is not clear that an EIS will be required, evidence strongly suggests that damage caused by the past four years of airboat tours and the damage that may be caused by future airboat tours may be significant and irreversible."

"Therefore, the Court enjoins further airboat tours in the Addition until such time as the Park Service completes an EIS or determines that an EIS is not necessary."

In 1994, the Miccosukee Tribe sued the Department of the Interior for violation of NEPA in a Jan. 1994 agreement with the Flo-Sun Land Corporation. One of the Tribe's contentions was the Interior Department failed to complete an Environmental Impact Statement before entering into the agreement with Flo-Sun. The suit was later dismissed in 1998.



Editorial

# Deadhead Whitewash

**\*Peter B. Gallagher**

The waters of Lake Pith-la-choc-co are creeping back now, almost to the lake-edges where the dog fennel has grown taller than Sasquatch and thicker than the corn on Costner's field of dreams. The damage to the ancient archaeological sites is covered up now by nature, all 87 canoes submerged again in watery graves, a few of their mysteries soon to be told by radio carbons in a laboratory far away. You cannot walk now on the lakebed where Chief Jim Billie bent over to touch one of the olden crafts but a few weeks ago.

Hundreds of old deadhead logs, long a part of the lake ecosystem, are gone, drug out through the mucky lakebottom in gouges and unholy scrapes by belching bulldozers, thundering airboats and their operators – men who make fun of environmentalists and assign cheap value to the precious antiquities of Florida's history and culture. Calm waters and an osprey's cry are all that remain now.

If the lake rises high enough, why Hatchett Creek – struck dead by a logger's dam – may actually find a path back to the lake proper! The higher the water, the more covered the makeshift roads crunched through the cypress wetlands. Out of sight. Out of mind. That's actually what deadhead logging is all about.

Waiting for nature's "cover-up" was an advantageous time for the state to perform its "official" investigation. In Florida, we taxpayers have employees charged with protecting our environment. It's our own company called the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The DEP report — which concluded no archeological or environmental damage occurred during a June-July deadhead logging operation on Newnan's Lake — was a whitewash. It brings into focus a problem much more serious than the events detailed in the *Seminole Tribune's* "Tragedy At Pith-la-choc-co" series. (See Special Section)

Though many hours were spent by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) investigating environmental charges, the depositions, photographs – even a videotape of logger L.C. Pinson at work – were never considered by DEP. Hours of work and expertise provided by the state's Division of Historical Resources (DHR) regarding the trespass of the largest ancient canoe find in North America, were also ignored. Numerous private citizen complaints, detailed accounts of destruction happening before their eyes, were also not considered.

Heck, a few of us at the *Tribune* spent the better part of two months letting DEP know everything we knew. Make no mistake about it. They knew.

With a straight face, DEP says it does not know. DEP says it asked for the FWC and DHR reports. "They didn't send them to us," Phil Coram, who heads DEP's permitting department, tells us taxpayers. "I haven't received a single complaint."

That's not true. That's what Lawrence Rossignol, who heads FWC's North Florida law enforcement effort, tells us taxpayers. "They know what we have."

Ditto for Jan Matthews, the DHR director: "Our achaeologists walked with DEP, pointed out the damages to them on site."

Ditto for Citizen Dale Crider, who wrote complaints and made such a nuisance of himself by bugging the public officials who work for him that he became an object of investigation himself. DEP's own computers store email with slanderous statements about the credibility of Crider, a 30-year veteran (retired) state biologist.

Even Attorney General Bob Butterworth is involved in this strange fray. He authored a ridiculous letter designed to remove his office from jurisdiction by informing his own boss – a public citizen complainant –there was nothing amiss at Newnan – a Lake. Concluded, we might add, without any investigation by his own office.

The turtles are okay, says DEP. Not true says one of the nation's leading experts on fresh water turtles. The eagles and ospreys are okay, says DEP. Do they even know what the state and federal laws are regarding the disturbance of nests? The public wants to know.

Who told who what, when, where? White wash.

Each state agency has decided to hide behind pointing fingers and obfuscation, hoping the lake will rise and it will all simply go away. The exception is DHR's Jan Matthews and Laura Kammerer who has come forcefully forward to admit her agency's shortcomings with a definite plan of fixing the system so it does not happen again. See *Letters below*.

Because it CAN happen again. The very same team of state agencies who screwed up at Newnan's Lake are in charge of each and every environmental issue in this state. From the Everglades to the out-of-control Panhandle. From the Ichetucknee to the out-of-control Southwest Florida. This wasn't just a crew of substitutes left over from the last Kid Rock tour brought in to fill in for the real experts on vacation. No. Phil Struhs is the Director of DEP. Katherine Harris is the Secretary of State, ultimately in charge of DHR. Dr. Allen Egbert is head man at FWC. Bob Butterworth is the Attorney General. Jeb Bush is the governor.

And, from all that we can tell, none of these people are talking "deadhead" to each other. I wonder if they would be surprised, as we were, when DHR state archaeologist Jim Miller told us more than 7,000 dredge-and-fill permits come through his office each year. "You don't have time to read every word," he said. We have a suggestion to DEP, where the permitting process begins:

Slow down.  
What's the hurry?

Gov. Bush suggested that two weeks ago when the curse of Pith-la-choc-co reached his office, delivered by the *Seminole Tribune* on deadline. He asked DEP not to issue any more dead-head dredge-and-fills for Florida lakes until the matter can be revisited at the next Cabinet meeting. Now, while the summer rains fill the creeks and sloughs, our Governor should take one more step and appoint an independent ombudsman to fully investigate the Newnan's Lake controversy; the facts, not a bunch of obfuscating bureaucrats, must be presented to the state's gathered leaders.

State environmentalists can give Gov. Bush the political reason to take this step. Remember, both state and national conservation groups supported the rebirth of deadhead logging in this state, signing on to a plan which trades \$6,000 license fees to private individuals for a fortune in taxpayers' submerged wood.

The few tree-huggers who have spoken out say they were misled. Are any of them as courageous as DHR leaders? Will they admit being wrong and demand, once and for all, a real investigation into this mess? Stay tuned.

Because if the waters rise too high, the cover-up could be forever.

— **Peter B. Gallagher directs Special Projects for Seminole Communications**



**Foohnschoche**

Letters

6300 Stirling Road, Hollywood, FL 33024

**Editor:**

The American Indian Movement of Florida is revolted, but sadly unsurprised, by the arrogant and callous actions of the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Resource (BAR) and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in regards to the "find" of a number of historic Seminole canoes, which are objects of cultural patrimony of the Seminole Nation and Seminole Tribe of Florida.

Florida BAR Chief James Miller, long noted as the head "ghoul" by Florida AIM, and the DEP allowed logger L.C. Pinson to log and destroy an area filled with the historic Seminole canoes. Mr. Pinson was permitted by the state to log the wood out of the Newnan's Lake area. The practice in and of itself is controversial as to its detrimental effects upon the environment and one the state previously banned. To allow such a questionable practice in an area where it would obviously destroy the historic canoes is an unconscionable act. More offensive is the fact that the state did not notify Tribal representatives. In his typically arrogant manner, Miller claims he "forgot" to notify the Seminole Tribe about the canoes, let alone the impending destruction of them by Mr. Pinson. Miller added that notifying the tribes is a "courtesy". Appears Miller forgot to be courteous, again.

The American Indian Movement of Florida demands that Mr. Pinson and the DEP as well as BAR be investigated by appropriate agencies for this unconscionable act. Further, as Mr. Pinson's permit prohibited his taking "artifacts," Florida AIM calls upon an investigation into the violation of his permit as his willful and wanton destruction of objects of cultural patrimony certainly constitutes a "taking." Florida AIM is reviewing potential violations of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and NAGPRA by the state in their complicity in the destruction of objects of cultural patrimony. Florida AIM further calls for the immediate repatriation to the Seminole Tribe of Florida any canoes that may not have been destroyed for their determination as to disposition.

Once again, we demand that James Miller be removed as head of the BAR. Despite Mr. Miller's "Orwellian double speak" over the last decade and a half, the facts of his discourteousness and forgetfulness speak for themselves. The State of Florida is miserably failing to meet the promise it made by passing the Unmarked Human Burial Act. The ravaging of pothunters continued unabated and without prosecution. In 1994, Florida AIM provided to the Pinellas-Pasco State Attorney a videotape, and four eyewitness affidavits identifying the man who robbed the Reedy Mound of human remains and associated funerary objects. Miller played a significant role in the lack of a prosecution. Miller also has failed to prosecute two individuals caught by police ravaging the mounds at the Cape Canaveral National Seashore on three occasions. And now Newnan's Lake.

Miller is an anthropologist with a mentality from a by-gone era. It is time to remove the "ghouls" from the BAR and place into his office someone who will not consistently "forget" to contact tribes, and consider respecting the sovereign and cultural rights of Indigenous peoples more than a "courtesy." We call upon all human beings to demand Jeb Bush remove Jim Miller from office IMMEDIATELY and replace him with someone who meets the approval of the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes.

**Sheridan Murphy**  
AIM Tampa

**Dear Chairman Billie:**

I wish to extend to you my sincerest apology for the commitment of an inexcusable oversight regarding activities involving Newnans Lake, Alachua County, Florida. This morning our agency was informed that the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (Department) had sent to this agency a submerged Lands and Environmental Resources Program (SLERP) application to permit the applicant to recover pre-cut submerged timber in Newnan's Lake. I was informed of this fact and immediately asked to determine if it had been received and reviewed by my staff. I discovered that the Department, the Northeast District, Jacksonville, Florida, had forwarded a SLERP application (#01-169104-011-ES) from L.C. Pinson, Resources Recovery Group, to us on April 28, 2000.

The SLERP application was received by the Division of Historical Resources Review and Compliance Section on May 3, 2000 (please see a copy of the application enclosed). My staff, however, did not review the application, although it was identified as a pre-cut timber recovery project. No comments were forwarded to the Department by this agency by the 30-day deadline. I assure you that this type of critical oversight will not happen again. In the past it was routine practice of this Section to presume that certain types of activities in many Department applications (*i.e.*, the old dredge and fill applications) involved types of activities that would not impact cultural resources. These types of projects were excluded from review in a 1989 agreement between this agency and the Department. Other projects had previously been reviewed under federal or other state regulations, *i.e.*, U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permit applications and Developments of Regional Impact.

Past procedures will no longer be followed. I have today implemented changes to that effect. All Department applications will be recorded and will be the subject of staff review for this agency. Our comments and recommendations will be forwarded to the appropriate Department district and district branch offices within the review period.

**Laura A. Kammerer, M.A.**  
Bureau of Historic Preservation  
Tallahassee

**Editor:**

Just wanted to let the *Tribune* know how much I appreciate the write up you did on Newnan's Lake. I grew up on this lake and I have seen many phases over the years but none that was so devastating as this one.

I think the thing that bothered me the most is the message that the state sent to the students that found all of the Indian artifacts. The students must have been excited, what a find and disappointment to see the State of Florida, lack of concern of this find and again the dollar sign wins this battle.

Florida has always been one of these states that set precedents for other states to follow. They blew this one big time.

Again the Indians get screwed and the white man wins. Please keep up the good work and maybe we can prevent this type of thing from happening in other lakes.

**Dianne Crider Warren**  
Savannah, GA

**Editor's Note: Dianne Crider Warren is the daughter of Dale Crider who is profiled in the special section in this issue.**

e-mail

tribune@semtribe.com

**Editor:**

I have been enjoying the articles in the *Seminole Tribune* on the forts, which are written by Vida Volkert. Her research seems meticulous. Are these articles published in a booklet? I have several friends who are interested in obtaining copies.

**Jeanette Peebles Carlton**  
pvranch

**Editor:**

Is there any chance I can get an autograph from the Queen of your Rodeo? I am photoing a new horse and since rodeo is my favorite sport, I am trying to gain as many autographs from the sport as possible. Thank you for time.

**Doug Caqqaonio**  
Caqqac@aol.com

**Editor:**

I read with interest Chief Billie's comment about the FSU use of the Tribal name "Seminoles". I can't agree more. All of the sports teams name themselves after something that will instill a winning spirit. My own high school in Northern California was, and is, called the Modoc Braves. It was not meant to demean, but help us win. Why name a sports team the High School Cowards? Thanks for your honesty.

**Dan Wemple**  
dewemple@ix.netcom.com

**Editor:**

My family and I spent two weeks in Florida last July. We made sure to visit the reservations, and the museum. I have read books about the Seminoles even back in the USSR, as a kid. I was amazed, upon my coming to the U.S. as a refugee in the 70s that most American people know so lit-

tle about your history.

I think it should be taught in all U.S. schools. Well, my kid knows your history. She went to the Museum with me, and I've got books for her. I will make sure more Russia-Americans come to visit the Seminoles.

You have a great, intelligent, savvy leader. I am glad that the Seminoles have overcome those who wanted to destroy them. I am glad they were not able to drive you from Florida. I was really impressed with what you have achieved. I want to visit you again!

**Paul Stonehill**  
Los Angeles, Cal.  
rurc@earthlink.net

**Editor:**

I have been told by friends of my late father, Richard Fleming Tolli, that I have a half brother who was born to a Seminole lady with the surname Tiger whom he was enamored of in the 1960-1962 time frame. I do not know too much more than this, except that it was thought that the child was possibly named Richard Tiger.

My father passed away in 1995 without ever talking to me about this personally, but I do know he did live near one of the tourist "Indian Village" areas growing up, and we have pictures of him wrestling alligators. He was a Boy Scout in Micanopy, and before he passed he attended a few Scout reunions in that area. He attended Miami Senior High School, and I think he graduated in 1960 or 1961.

I know that this is not very much information, but I was hoping that there might be some way to see if it is true that my brother exists, and if so, I would love to find him. Please forgive me for imposing

upon you for assistance, but I do not know how to find this information on my own, as it would require finding someone who actually remembers who was around back then.

I would very, very much appreciate any assistance you could give me. Attached are the photos we have of my father and some of his friends, and of him and an alligator. I hope there is someone in these photos you may recognize. Thank you.

**Susan Brown**  
Tallahassee  
Sue@Talweb.com

**Editor:**

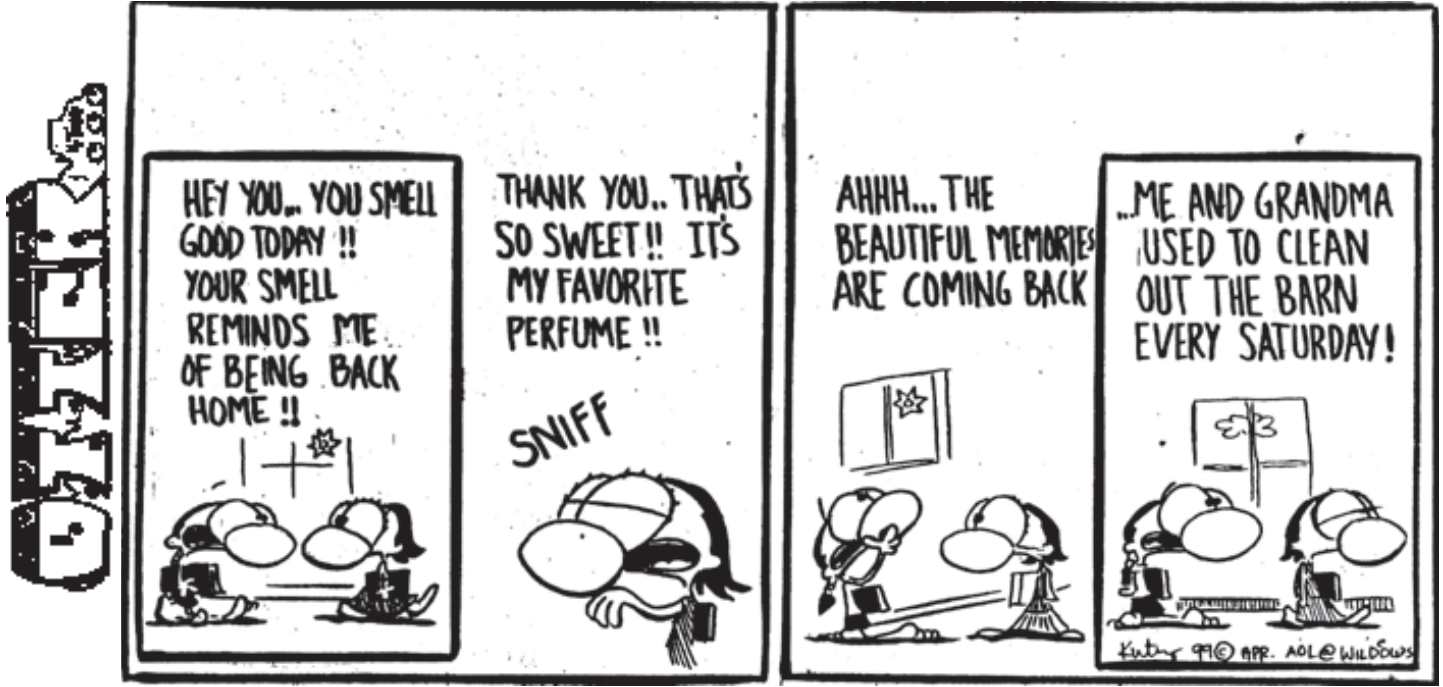
It is with the utmost gratitude that I come to you to thank you for your generous donation for our programs.

We are working on our housing, youth center, Christmas basket and stove preparations. We are opening the schools this month. We are also preparing for our catalog season. It is a very busy time!

Once again, thank you! We could do nothing without your support. Please keep us in mind during this hectic time.

**Deacon Dan Nez Martin**

**The Seminole Tribune**  
is looking for an Editorial  
Cartoonist. Anyone interested  
contact us at  
tribune@semtribe.com.



Seminole Tribune

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Early in the nineteenth century there were conflicts between Georgians and Seminoles across the Georgia/Florida border. Recent studies show cattle were the primary commodity which prompted strife on both sides as the whites and Indians stole or recaptured their stock from the borderland or made forays into Georgia and Florida. Also, numerous Black slaves had filtered into Spanish-held Florida seeking to escape their harsh lives on southern plantations.

The southeastern Indians had used slave labor for generations, making raids to other Indian villages for that purpose. The southeastern Indian slave market became a major Indian economy when the British provided select tribes with guns and other gifts for rounding up lesser fortunate tribal peoples to be sold to work on the Brits' West Indies plantations. Greed and overhunting resulted in the Yamasee War, which in turn brought the official end of British supported Indian slaving, as the Colonists began the importation of Africans.

The runaway Black slaves provided a continuum to the southeastern Indian tradition of slavery. In the Treaty of Coleraine in 1796, the Creek Confederation in southern Alabama and Georgia had been induced to state that they would surrender to the Americans their valuable commodity of runaway slaves as well as those held by their Florida relatives, the Seminoles. The Creeks showed their willingness to stand with the Americans against the Seminoles which strengthened the major breach between these related tribal groups. The Georgians then felt all the more justified in making slave raids into Florida Seminoles camps to retrieve the Seminoles' "illegally" held slaves. As a result, the borderlands became a hotbed of activity.

Daniel Newnan moved to Georgia from North Carolina in 1802. There he became a plantation owner and slaveholder. He had been a second lieutenant in the 4th Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army in 1799, becoming a 1st lieutenant by the time of his resignation in January of 1802. In Georgia he was active in the militia and served as adjutant general of Georgia from 1806-1817.

At this time, there were a number of American settlers in Spanish Florida known as the "Patriots." They wanted Florida to be taken from Spain. These revolutionaries had the ear, but not the official sanction, of President James Madison. The Georgia militia was at the forefront of unofficial U.S. aggression. Early in 1812 plans were afoot to take Fernandina and St. Augustine.

In July 1812, the Spanish Governor of Florida, Sebastian Kindelan, induced the Seminoles to retaliate against the Georgians. Newnan entered Spanish Florida with 250 Georgia volunteers, most from Dublin, Ga. The Seminole leaders Payne and Bowlegs were not in agreement about their role in fighting for Spain against the Americans. Payne advocated non-involvement, while Bowlegs wanted to fight. Bowlegs' men exacerbated the situation, raiding plantations between the St. John's and the St. Mary's Rivers and taking slaves in the summer of 1812. It is interesting that Kindelan offered Spanish citizenship to every slave that joined the Spanish cause.

On Aug. 15, 1812, Newnan's militia reached Davis Creek, Fla., where they came under the command of Col. Thomas Adam Smith, commander of the United States Troops in Spanish Florida. Smith was pro Patriot, and had been ready to take St. Augustine earlier in the year, but he had no official directive from the War Department. Anxious to retaliate for the hostile outbreak by the Seminoles, on Aug. 21 Smith ordered Newnan to destroy the Indian towns near Alachua. Five days later, when Newnan was preparing to advance, he received word that the Seminoles had pinned down Smith's troops. Newnan went to the rescue, saving 130 men and 25 horses.

Newnan next left from Picolata on the St. John's with 117 men (volunteers and a few Patriots) and rations for only four days. He apparently was sure of his victory over the Seminoles. However, on the march his troops had a surprise encounter with Payne and 75-100 mounted Seminoles who were also on the march. The Seminoles dismounted and opened fire. In a skirmish that lasted two and

a half hours, Payne was wounded. Before sunset Payne was reinforced by more warriors and Blacks who opened fire. Newnan's troops worked all night making a breastwork while six men left to get reinforcements from Col. Smith. The militiamen spent seven days in the breastwork subsisting on gopher turtles, alligator, and hearts of palm (while some accounts mention that they ate their horses, they apparently did not, although the Seminoles shot all of the troops' horses). As more men became ill, Newnan retreated at night towards the St. John's River. They stopped after eight miles and managed to build another breastwork which they did not leave until the afternoon of the next day. After five miles they came under very heavy fire, but somehow rallied and fiercely charged their enemy who fled. The next day they walked five miles and built yet another breastwork between two ponds. It was there that a relief column found them and took them back to Picolata. They had been out 18 days. Supposedly they had killed 60 Seminoles, losing only nine of their own men. While the press picked up on this as a major Seminole defeat, Newnan's militia barely escaped with their lives.

The elderly Payne died, not from his wounds, but doubtless debilitated by the rigors of war.

Newnan fought in the Red Stick War commanding Georgia militiamen and friendly Creeks. He was severely wounded on Jan. 20, 1814, and was not in combat again. He was active in state politics, a representative in the Georgia Legislature, major general of the Georgia Militia and was secretary of State of Georgia until 1827. From 1831-33 he served a term in the U. S. House of Representatives. At the outbreak of the Second Seminole War in December 1835, he wanted to serve again. He did not see combat, but was appointed adjutant general in 1837, then brigadier general. He died Jan. 10, 1851.

*Prepared with the published works of John K. Mahon, and Rembert W. Patrick. — Reflections Number 179*



Brian Zepeda (l) and Victor Billie show period dress used for Shootout.

## Museum Shootout

By Elrod Bowers

**BIG CYPRESS** — The Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum is already preparing for the Third Annual Kissimmee Slough Shootout and Rendezvous, to be held on Feb. 3-4, 2001.

"We'll have more re-enactors in the Shootout this year," said Brian Zepeda, Ah-Tah-Thi-Ki Museum Operations Manager. "We've also re-sculpted the battlefield, and will have two cannon

doubled last year from the first Shootout," said Zepeda. "We expect more this year because we've put together a larger show that pleases everyone from the historian to the general tourist."

According to Exhibits Specialist Marty Bowers, the Museum will also host a stickball tournament in conjunction with the Shootout. Teams, one from each reservation, should have 15 players with a minimum of five women. Men

must bring their own sticks.

"We will be contacting the Recreation Departments on each reservation and possibly the Miccosukee Tribe," said Bowers. "The players on each team should be at least 18 years old."

According to Bowers, the event is recognition of stick-



Elrod Bowers

Three different film crews recorded the reenactment.

crews, including one from Fort Foster, coming in."

The battle, which shows what an 1840s skirmish between the U.S. Army and the Seminoles might have looked like, will only be held once a day due to the amount of props and pyrotechnics.

Approximately an hour in length, the battle has been filmed by Miami Public Television Station WPBT 2, as well as German and British film crews.

Zepeda is anticipating a large audience for the third installment of the battle. "Our attendance

ball as an important part of the Seminole culture.

"Historically, our people have never had it very easy," said Bowers, "so the socializing aspect of stickball was always a welcome respite."

"When you think of stickball, you think of the Green Corn Dance celebration, of which stickball plays a part. The two are intertwined. The tournament will celebrate the socializing atmosphere of stickball and the fact that, although there were hard times, the Seminole people could still enjoy life."

## Summer Safari Readers Awarded At DSO Open House

By Ernie Tiger

**HOLLYWOOD** — On Thursday August 24th, Dorothy Scott Osceola (DSO) Library staff officials held a back-to-school party and open house for community members and students. Participants in the Summer Safari Readers Program were set up by the DSO Library staff and visitors were able to interact with the students and tour through the newly constructed three-story, 29,000 square-foot Tribal facility, which opened in May 2000. "The new DSO building gives students and staff much needed room for the department's growth and meets the education needs for the new millenium" says librarian Diane Diaz. "We had to move around a little bit and squeeze our classes into trailers while the new building was being constructed, but it was worth it."

"The kids worked very hard on their reading throughout the summer program and I wanted their hard work to be acknowledged. . . that's why we awarded the kids for participation and reading," commented librarian Tifarah Grace, who helped direct the Summer Safari reading program. Kids who participated in the summer program had to read many books and participate in Summer Safari activities presented by library staff. The children studied different continents around the world and the animals that inhabit them. "It was fun to learn about other countries — it made it fun to read," said Ms. Grace.

At the open house party, refreshments and back-to-school supplies were handed out with pamphlets containing information on the school's educational departments and health awareness. Spectators who gathered at the DSO were able to journey through the new build-

ing and gain insights on the unique classes that are available at the building. Also they got to watch students try out their latest techniques in the up-to-date Millenium Computer lab. Students are able to search the web for a wide range of educational material.

The most unique class witnessed throughout the day by spectators had to be the culture class led by Mable Osceola. Her class, which was incorporated in the DSO curriculum since the beginning, has helped students learn who they are and where their ancestors and Tribal background came from. "In my class, youth practice many of the Tribe's traditional arts which were once used in day-to-day life: such as making palmetto fiber dolls, patchwork, sewing, cooking,

bead work and learning the Seminole native language. I just hope that each youth will learn at least one of these dying arts, so that it will be carried on to the next generation," commented Tribal culture teacher Osceola.

Below is a listing of youth whom received awards for the Summer Reading Program:

Mariah Buster — 12, Brandon Dicarolo — 11, Christopher Hunter — 7, Garrett Anderson — 6, Kystle Young — 6, Anahana Sirota — 6 Marissa Osceola — 5, Rebecca Osceola — 4, Mariah Buster — 4, Jessica Turtle — 3, Lacey Jordan — 3, Leon Pewo — 3, Cindi Adair — 3, Micco Bowers — 2, Jackson Richard — 2, Katlyn Osceola, Kayla Nelson — 1, Allyson Billie —

1, Lorri Osceola — 1, Noemi Billie — 1, Jean Frank — 1, Participants — Kristen Osceola, Latitia Foster, Courtney Osceola, Kei-ya-le Osceola, Kayla Bowers, Rhiannon Tiger, De De Tiger.

Librarian Diane Diaz would like to give a special thanks to summer youth workers Mia Sapp, Austin Billie, and William Cypress.



Top (l-r): Tifarah Grace and Diane Diaz, 2nd Row (l-r): Lacey Jerdan, Mariah Buster, Christopher Hunter, Brandon Dicarolo, 3rd Row (l-r): Rhiannon Tiger and Deandra Tiger.

## Holáskoan

Continued from page 1

ancestors of the Seminole people and therein lies a fact that is, without a doubt, the "value" at the core of this controversy. Of what value is the past of those native peoples who were so determinedly displaced by Europeans and whose descendants are still around today as living reminders of that displacement? What debt do we, as Euroamericans, owe to them and what responsibility do we have to save their past? And, ultimately, to what extent is it only *their* past and to what extent does the past become a shared value and its protection a responsibility consequently shared by all of us?

The answers to these questions are both individual and collective and, so, we must look to ourselves both privately and publicly to find responses. L.C. "Chuck" Pinson, the man who sent his bulldozer crashing through precious historical artifacts, made an individual decision that short-term economic profit was the overriding value in his life. But he also made a collective decision — a decision on *our* part but in which the rest of us were given no voice, when he destroyed artifacts that were not his to destroy. He destroyed artifacts that were tangible parts of our collective intangible past, and parts of the specific past of the Seminole people. This is the nexus where all of the values meet or, in this case, collide.

A *Seminole Tribune* reporter questioned Mr. Pinson about his actions and he made his attitudes very clear when he replied that he felt as if their challenges were "arrows stuck in my rib cage." You and I weren't there to stop Mr. Pinson, or even to express

our views or reason with him. We can't be everywhere. That's why we have laws, and that's why we appoint public officials, to be our surrogates in such matters by enforcing the laws. Residents in nearby areas contacted state officials and asked them to enforce the laws regarding environmental protection and preservation of historic properties. In every case they declined and, in some cases, they turned on the citizens who tried to protect the site. Mr. Pinson held a state permit, which he interpreted as giving him permission to take his profit at the expense of our past. He even referred to his permit as "God in my back pocket." Both his state and his god were on his side. This is the same rationale used over and over nowadays in Florida by many developers — short-change artists who are willing to squander the last cent of our historical equity for a quick buck in their pockets.

This is a state that, after all, still has so much future that it all too frequently sees no need to honor its past! "Development" is the engine that Florida governments have accepted as a motive force, creating and driving what passes for "progress" in Florida. Very little time, relatively, is given over to a discussion of Florida's tremendously rich past or to a consideration of the central role of that history in creating the exotic public image that makes Florida so prominent and unique in the national image, and makes the state so attractive to the developers. This is the classic "vicious circle."

These competing dual realities — of a culturally rich past and a potentially economically rich future, collided — head on, with the recent discovery of the so-called Miami Circle and that city's attempts to define its own public values. Now, they are colliding once again, over a lake in Alachua County.

We have encountered a tangible reminder of the hundreds of thousands of people, the ancestors of the Seminoles, whose lives have formed the warp of the rich cultural tapestry that is the Florida we enjoy, today. But, how much do we love it? Do we love it enough to honor the parts of the tapestry that were not woven in Euroamerican patterns, or by Euroamerican hands? Do we love it enough to realize we cannot cut away even a single thread without integrally weakening the entire fabric? Do we love it enough to accept our fiduciary responsibility to a *collective* past?

Too many individuals in Florida today have used the specious, and tired, argument you can't save everything; that you have to destroy the past in order to build a future; that the past is dead and, in the present, we all still have to pay our rent. The Seminole people say, *holáskoan* — that's not true! These are separate objectives that are not always linked, nor should they be. Rent is a fact of life. And, of course, we *cannot* expect to save everything. "Everything" isn't worth saving and, even if we could save it, we would be dooming ourselves to a life inside of a time capsule. A pretty sterile existence. But we certainly don't have to create our lives entirely on a choice of one approach or the other. It isn't a matter of having a past *or* a future. It's a matter of recognizing both, putting both in perspective, honoring both, and working to protect both. It's a matter of values. The Seminole people always have known this. That's why they're still here today.

**Dr. Patricia Wickman is Director of the Tribe's Anthropology & Geneology Department.**

## Deadhead

Continued from page 1

A post assessment report conducted just this week by DEP also found nothing untoward about Pinson's activities on Newnan's Lake. DEP's Coram admitted, however, "I haven't seen anything from FWC or DHR. If they have evidence of wrongdoing, they haven't sent it to us." The DEP report summarized: "In conclusion, although minor infractions were observed. . . the logging activities at Newnan's Lake appeared to have minimal permanent negative ecological effects." Oddly enough, the three key state agencies involved in this issue have yet to meet and compare notes.

An astounding lack of communication between the affected state agencies has been at the foundation of this issue since the canoes were first discovered. At the direction of publisher (and Tribal Chairman) James Billie, the *Tribune* began publishing and posting articles about the issue last month. Billie found it suspicious that state officials did not notify the Seminole Tribe when 87 canoes were discovered in late May/early June on the northeast corner of the dried-out 7,437-acre lakebed.

Deadhead logging — recovery of valuable old hardwood, pre-cut, submerged logs — had been banned for 25 years in Florida before reinstatement in 1998 at Gov. Lawton Chiles' last Cabinet meeting. Complaints from fishermen and envi-

ronmentalists brought the industry to a halt for four months this year while state regulators reworked the original Cabinet policy, rewriting the new regulations to even require loggers earn a "Master Deadhead Logger" degree.

According to Coram, the "affected agencies" (including FWC and DHR) were notified 30 days before Pinson cranked up his bulldozer. Top officials at both agencies at first denied receiving any notice from DEP and claimed no knowledge about Pinson's activities on the lake until public citizen complaints began to come in. "I never saw that letter (of notice), Believe me, Newnan's Lake would have jumped off the page at me," said Brian Barnett of FWC. (The *Tribune* has obtained a letter — addressed to Barnett — notifying FWC of the Newnan's Lake deadhead application on April 28, a month before Pinson began work on the lake.) "We see every deadhead application. We have designed conditions and responses to these permits, but only for rivers. I've never seen one on a lake."

DHR Director Jan Matthews and her staff were surprised to discover that DEP's review letter had arrived in her office on May 3. "We are meeting and apologies will follow," said Matthews, who received a copy of the letter from the *Tribune*.

The Governor's request was to suspend deadhead logging on lakes until the Cabinet could review the Newnan's Lake incident. Boscan said it will be added to the agenda for one of the two October meetings.

structures that were there."

Homeless people had been seen using the chickees for shelter during storms and on cold evenings, reported a guard at the scene. "The Army Corps didn't like the homeless people in there. They told us to tear it all down," sighs Martin. "I feel real bad about it. We sent a letter to Chief Billie asking if he wanted to move them, but we were notified he didn't."

Chairman's executive assistant Pat Diamond confirmed receiving the letter "over a year ago."

Chairman Billie did not remember USET's letter. "It's sad," he said, staring at the empty grounds where his works once stood. "I would have preferred they leave them up for the homeless people. What's wrong with people seeking shelter in chickees?"



# Fort Izard: Simple Barricade Kept Soldiers From Disaster

**By Vida Volkert**  
**OCALA** — It was Feb. 27, 1836. Gen. Edmund Gaines and more than 1,000 volunteers totting a six pound cannon were fording the north edges of the Withlacoochee River, in one of the military's many unsuccessful attempts to cross the crystal clear southwestern Florida river.

South of the Withlacoochee River was "the heart of Indian country," explains John K. Mahon, emeritus professor of history at the University of Florida.

To the north, the military had established Fort Drane and Fort King, two important military posts during the Second Seminole War (1835-1842). Mahon says the Military believed the Indians were concentrated south of the Withlacoochee and in order for the army to enter Indian Territory to enforce the Indian removal policies they needed to cross the river.

But, as the military, led by Gaines, got closer to the edges of the Withlacoochee, they were caught amidst a storm of Indian bullets from the opposite bank.

Instead of counter attacking the Seminole Indians, Gaines ordered his soldiers to retreat and camp near by.

Gaines believed he could remain close enough to Indian Territory, call for more troops from Fort Drane, surround the Indians and cross the river, says Mahon.

He sent a runner to Fort Drane with a message to Gen. Duncan Clinch, commander of the fort. Gaines and his soldiers camped by the north edge of the river and continued trying to cross the river for many days.

But every soldier failed or fell in the attempt because the warriors remained fiercely posted along the south edges of the Withlacoochee, firing upon them. And, no reinforcements arrived.

The storm of bullets would last for two intense weeks. The siege would cause great devastation to the army, including the loss of several officers and soldiers; and even horses that had to be sacrificed to feed the emaciated army men who ended up trapped between Indian fire and military duty.

"Indian fire. . . was so punishing that the general [Gaines] gave the order to erect a log breastwork," said Mahon, author of *History of the Second Seminole War, 1835-1842*.

Although the breastwork, which became known as Fort Izard, would serve the men as a barricade, it would also become the soldiers' prison.

They remained trapped in the hastily erected structure, surrounded by hundreds of Indian warriors, for over 10 days.

"We call it a fort, but it was a camp," said

Mahon about the breastwork, ". . . the Indians had them trapped here."

Lt. Henry Prince, an officer who served under Gaines during this period and kept a diary throughout his years of service in Florida. He estimated the Indian force surrounding them to be over 1,000 warriors.

According to Mahon, Prince's diary is considered the most accurate and best descriptive source of information of the desperate events that occurred during those days along the edge of the Withlacoochee.

Prince's diary was edited and published in 1998 with support of the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation and had been cleverly titled *Amidst A Storm of Bullets*.

Mahon, a member of the board of directors of the Seminole War Historic Foundation, said the breastwork was "about three feet high."

According to Prince's accounts, it was built on the night of Feb. 28, 1836, after two days of intense confrontations between forces.

"... we made a rectangular breastwork each company make a portion - the length of its own line," wrote Prince.

Mahon says the fort was about 250 yards square. "It was not a perfect square, though. It was rectangular."

This barricade would later be named Camp or Fort Izard, after 26-year-old Lt. James F. Izard.

According to Prince's accounts, Izard was a West Point graduate who got shot on Feb. 28, 1836 as he was commanding an advance guard trying to cross the Withlacoochee River under heavy fire. He died five days later.

A bullet "entered his [Izard's] eye and came out near the temple. He fell senseless on his face. When his consciousness returned he rolled over and told his men to 'lay low & preserve their position,'" wrote Prince in his diary. Izard was buried inside the fort under an Oak tree.

Mahon says the Indians remained persistently defensive, keeping the soldiers from crossing the river, because they were protecting their territory.

"No man could cross the river," said Mahon, adding that the Withlacoochee River represented a line dividing Indian country from military activity.

That's why even before Gaines, the army had already unsuccessfully tried to cross that same river, says Mahon, leading the attempt into one of the first major battles of the Second Seminole War, which is not surprisingly called the Battle of Withlacoochee (Dec. 31, 1835).

At the Battle of Withlacoochee, Gen. Duncan Clinch had led about 750 volunteers and reg-

ulars across the river, but the young Seminole leader Osceola and some 250 warriors had stopped them.

"The Indians had a significant victory on Dec. 31, 1835" said Mahon. "Actually. . . in the long run of the war the army did not make it. They did not cross the river."

Now, trapped by the intense Indian fire, Gen. Gaines and his men were going though an experience worse than the soldiers faced during the Battle of Withlacoochee.

On Sunday Feb. 28, 1836, Lt. Prince recorded in his diary that some men were sent down the river, about three miles, to find "... a more advantageous place to cross.[But] On approaching the river the Indians commenced a tremendous fire and squeal."

The firing between the advance guard and Indians was kept up from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

On Feb. 29, 1836, Prince recorded the soldiers' struggles as the Indians tried to set their blockhouse on fire.

"At the tail of the arrow the indians set fire to the palmettos with which the ground was covered both outside of the breastwork & inside. It was extinguished as fast as it reached the breastwork by throwing over sand. It seems to me impossible for bullets to fly thicker anywhere then they did round me. They would cut holes through palmetto leaves 3 feet from us while others would fall dead all around me."

"...a spent ball knocked out Gen. Gaines' only tooth. Two men were wounded on the side of me one through the fleshy part of the cheek - the other through the right wrist. The latter I bound up with my towel which I carried in my pocket. A volunteer near me carried a cleaver, a rifle ball passed through the leather sheath. The thick leather waist belt of Sgt. Penn of my company was perforated by a ball which broke its force[. H]e was hurt but not injured."

On this day, Lt. Prince was hit by two balls one in the hip and one in the back.

"Neither tore my clothes. I have both bullets in my pocket. My hip is quite sore," he wrote.

Prince commented that at the end of the day, when the fire ceased, the breastwork had to be raised "higher & defiled from reverse fire."

By Feb. 5th, 1836, the soldiers had run out of supplies. They were starving and had to sacrifice some of their horses.

"I am sick at my stomach and the whole camp is scented by the carcass of a horse decaying outside the lines unburied. A horse has been killed today & cut up to beef - a part of him is cooking at every fire! Several officers I perceive are having some part of him served up in their messes. Horse head soup is spoken of in some praise & in actual preparation."

Prince wrote that on this same day that Lt. Izard was buried, at night, the soldiers heard the voice of a black Seminole requesting a parley to negotiate peace.

Prince mentioned that the same black Seminole who requested the parley did it without authorization of the Indian chiefs and that because of that impertinence, the chiefs later ordered his death. However, because Osceola interfered, the chiefs forgave him.

Upon request of the parley, Gaines sent another runner back to Fort Drane, where Clinch was stationed, asking for reinforcements. He was hoping the important chiefs would come closer to the fort for the negotiations and that under those circumstances he could have reinforcements surprise them.

Also, according to Mahon, when sending his runner to Fort Drane the General "never admitted that he was besieged, but said rather that he had got the Indian concentrated where Clinch could attack them."

Escaping from Fort Izard, as if from hell, the runner quickly got to Fort Drane. He informed Gen. Clinch of the situation at the edges of the Withlacoochee, including the state of starvation and desperation in which the men were caught.

Although Clinch was more than anxious to send reinforcements and assist Gaines, he had to deny the request. Just a few days before, the commander of Florida, Gen. Winfield Scott, had ordered Clinch not to support Gaines' military strategy.

Clinch remained at Fort Drane with his men and supplies while Gaines had to continue enduring hunger and the struggles of the conflict.

The reasons why Scott ordered Clinch to remain out of the Withlacoochee conflict are more personal than strategic. It happened that Scott and Gaines knew each other and there was a rivalry between the two generals.

"The military at that time was very touchy about rank and promotion," says Mahon, adding that Scott was a senior in rank by three weeks and that because of that, hostility had existed between Gaines and Scott since their service in the War of 1812.

Mahon said Scott had just entered Florida, ordered by the Jackson administration to assume command of the peninsula. He did not know that Gaines was in Florida at the time.

When Scott heard Gaines had led his men into such desperate action at the edges of the Withlacoochee, he became very upset.

"Scott did not expect to find Gaines in Florida when he assumed command. Gaines did not expect that Scott would be the new commander," said Mahon.

To Scott's point of view, Gaines was an intruder and neither his activities nor his presence were welcome in Florida.

Gen. Gaines, on the other hand, had entered the peninsula upon news of the Dade's Battle (Dec. 28, 1835). When he heard of the conflict, "he assembled 1,100 men at New Orleans and steamed for Tampa Bay," said Mahon.

During the Dade Battle, the Indians annihilated Major Francis L. Dade and 108 of his men while on their march from Fort Brooke in modern day Tampa to Fort King in what is today Ocala.

According to the accounts of Lt. Prince, the citizens of New Orleans raised about \$5,000 in subscriptions for the widows of Dade's men.

Gaines and his volunteers arrived in Tampa on Feb. 9, 1836 and together marched along the same road Dade and his men had marched the prior December. Gaines and his detachment came across the decomposed bodies of the unfortunate men in Dade's command. It was Gaines and his men who buried the remains.

"A dreadful scene it was," wrote Lt. Prince. The bodies were found laying on and around the King's Road, where the battle between Indians and soldiers had taken place. Prince wrote, "the skeletons of the slain lay where they were shot. As the flesh was decayed it was difficult to decide whether they had been scalped."

The Dade's Battle, known today as the Dade's Massacre, ignited the fire of the Second Seminole War.

After burying the bodies, Gaines continued with his march to Fort King. But at Fort King, the 1,100 men did not find enough supplies to be speared.

Gaines ordered the men to return to Fort Brooke, but on Feb. 26, 1836, he changed his mind and set out instead for the Withlacoochee.

Now, 10 days later, Gaines and his men were trapped in the Withlacoochee with no food and about 1,000 Seminole warriors firing upon them. From Fort Drane, Clinch could hear the thunder of the cannon from Gaines' camp, but he could do nothing. Gaines, for his part, continued sending runners to Fort Drane seeking assistance.

His messages were more and more urgent. The Indians now were wearing blue military outfits to help in their attack, and they were succeeding at infiltrating and confusing the soldiers. And, the talks with the Indians were not working because Gaines was not able to promise anything to the Indians.

At least he was not able to promise the government would stop harassing the Indians or that it would stop the removal policy - the two main issues the Indians wanted addressed.

After receiving several desperate messages, and despite orders from the commander of Florida, Clinch felt it his duty to aid Gaines. Disobeying orders, Clinch sent 500 men to Gaines' assistance. On March 6, 1836, Clinch's men departed from Fort Drane.

According to Mahon, Scott sent orders to aid Gaines on about the same day Clinch had already taken action.

When Clinch's men got close to the scene at the Withlacoochee, they fired upon the Indians who quickly dispersed and disappeared in the wilderness. The siege was over.

But, before the emaciated men could march to Fort Drane, they had to stay for a little while at Fort Izard to rest and gain strength for the march. "It took them 11 days to get back to Fort Drane," said Mahon.

Historians Eloise Robinson Ott and Louis Hickman wrote in *Ocala County, Kingdom of the Sun*, that during the siege at the Withlacoochee, 44 soldiers were killed.

The rest walked back to Fort Drane, located about 35 miles north west of Fort Izard. About the men's arrival to Fort Drane, John Bemrosa, a young medical assistant stationed at Fort Drane recorded on March 8, 1836:

"General Clinch and General Gaines arrived at Fort Drane with their respective forces and never can I forget the emaciated appearance of Gaines' soldiers. These poor creatures, such was their state of famine that they resembled living skeletons."

Mahon said Gaines allowed his men to go though such an ordeal because he believed he would eventually get reinforcements and could crush the Seminoles.

Despite this dark episode, Gaines is considered a brave and intelligent officer. "Gaines did a better job than Scott," says Mahon, when comparing both commanders' actions in Florida. Indeed, the city



Gen. Gaines and 1,100 men were nearly wiped out.

of Gainesville located in Alachua County was named after the commander, said Mahon.

From Fort Drane, Gaines took off for Tallahassee and from there went to New Orleans, said Mahon. "He died in 1841."

Before his death, however, Gaines took Scott to court over the incident at Fort Izard. But his complaint was never resolved and Scott went unpunished. Scott had many influential friends in the army, and his influence kept him from getting reprimanded-for not quickly coming to Gaines' assistance.

Mahon says after Gaines and his men set for Fort Drane, Fort Izard was briefly used again during the Second Seminole War, but there are not many records of the soldiers stationed in this camp.

Later, after the conflict with the Seminoles was over, the area where Fort Izard stood became prime land for expensive housing, says Mahon. In 1992 the Seminole Wars Historic Foundation was incorporated to save Seminole War historic sites from development, and Fort Izard was saved with support from the Florida Water Management District in November 1994.

Mahon says the FWMD bought several thousand acres along the Withlacoochee River including the site of Fort Izard. The FWMD gave the site to the Seminole War Foundation under the condition that the site is used for educational purposes.

Under such condition, the Seminole War Historic Foundation paid the Gulf Archaeological Institute to do an archaeological survey. The Florida Bureau of Historic Preservation and the Seminole Tribe of Florida contributed funding for the archaeological project.

"The exact location of the site [Fort Izard] has been identified and it will be turned into a historic park with a museum and an educational center," said Mahon, adding that a second excavation is required to extract relevant artifacts from the site.


Today, access to the site of Fort Izard is very limited. Although there was a settlement known as Stokes Ferry on the same peninsula where the fort stood, the area is now uninhabited because it is part of the Greenway project. The Greenway is a natural preserve along the Withlacoochee. The nearest accessible park with access to the Withlacoochee River is located along the Withlacoochee State Trail.

Entrance to the Withlacoochee State Trail is on Croom Rital Road, off S.R. 50, a mile east of I-75. For more information, contact the Withlacoochee State Trail 12549 State Park Drive, Clermont, FL 34711, or call (352) 394-2280.

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# Community News



William Osceola kept the River Walk crowd entertained with his high voltage dance performance.

## Native American Music Day Is Celebrated

**By Vida Volkert**  
**FORT LAUDERDALE** — Tribal members William Osceola and William Cypress and the Miccosukee's Tiger Brothers rocked, rumbled and soared at a packed River Front Walk, Sept. 3.

The Las Olas River Front, an outdoor mall surrounded by canals, museums, and shopping centers; has become a center of attraction in South Florida.

This Fort Lauderdale Downtown mall has achieved as much popularity as the well-known Fort Lauderdale Beach on route A1A.

But while the River Place shopping center is characterized by a wild audience of Spring Break beach lovers and party youngsters, the River Walk attracts a more traditional audience of music, arts and crafts lovers. This Labor Day Weekend was no exception.

Thousands of people packed the streets along the New River to celebrate art and see the diverse groups of musicians and performers, including the Seminole and Miccosukee Tribes' artists.

Dressed in full traditional regalia, William Osceola, 16, danced Native American dances to the rhythm of William Cypress's drums and chants.

Osceola and Cypress performed the Grass Dance, among other traditional dances, as hundreds looked on in awe.

The Tiger Brothers – Lee and Steven – who

perform as Tiger Tiger, followed with a more contemporary show of rock and roll.

They played songs from their recently released *Southern Exposure*, which was available to the public for \$15 apiece.

"This is great music," said Nathalie Mayer, 18, a German tourist who was holding a *Southern Exposure* CD she had just purchased.

Mayer said one does not usually see this kind of event in Germany.

"We just love Native American culture," she said smiling while her parents used their video and photo cameras to record the scene.

Howard Alexander, a 52-year-old Broward County resident who spent his Sunday afternoon drinking coffee and jamming to the music of Tiger Tiger's electric guitars, said he had exclusively come to the event to see the Native American bands.

"I don't like shopping centers, but I drove from Oakland Park to this place [River Walk] just to see the Native Americans perform," said Alexander.

Some streets, such as Las Olas Boulevard, were closed during the weekend due to the traffic and the activities.

The sun was overwhelming and the heat was unbearable, but that was no impediment for the crowds to have their long weekend of arts, crafts and Native American dance.

## Teen Profile: Deanna Osceola

**By Michael James**  
**OKEECHOBEE** — Meet Deanna Osceola, 13, eldest daughter of Jeff and Janelle Robinson. The oldest of six children, she resides at Brighton Reservation and attends Yearling Middle School.

A member of the Bird Clan, Deanna maintains a straight "A" average and has a wide range of interests, from reading about the Holocaust, World Wars I and II, to participating in sports. She was recently chosen a pitcher for the Okeechobee All Star softball team, which placed third in the state. This year she plans to join Club D.C., and make a trip to Washington D.C. at the end of the school year, and become a member of SWAT (Students Working Against Tobacco.) Her favorite subjects are math and history.

Deanna recently received a National Science Merit Award nomination. The top 12 male and female junior high science students are chosen from the school based on academics, teacher recommendations and conduct.

If Deanna is chosen, she will be recognized in the appropriate edition of the United States Achievement Academy, where her achievements and school activities will be acknowledged. Should she win she would be eligible to compete for regional college scholarship grants awarded by the academy.

"I have seen my friends do things and I feel they are only liked for doing those things," Deanna



Deanna Osceola: Girl with a goal.

said, "I don't like that. I want to be accepted and liked for who I am. I know who I am and where I come from, and if somebody doesn't like that, then I don't need them."

Being older than five siblings has its ups and downs, she says. But she strives to be an example.

"If I had to give them any advice it would be to not try to impress anyone, if they don't like you for who you are then don't waste your time on them."

Deanna appreciates her Mom and Dad. "They are not too strict, but I know my limits," Deanna says. "My friends like my Mom. They think she is cool."

Deanna's most recent honor took place when she was asked to take part in the Caloosa Domain Exhibit at the Natural History Museum in Gainesville. The exhibit recognizes Florida's indigenous population. Deanna's portrait will become a mural within the exhibit, which is due to be completed soon.

Deanna is already planning on college, and has an architect. Whatever she decides to do, she will be passionate and confident in all her efforts.

## James Billie Appears In Calendar

**By Vida Volkert**  
**CORAL SPRINGS** — It might still be the year 2001, but Chairman James Billie is already featured in the month of June of the 2001 Native Life Calendar.

The 2001 Native Life Calendar features full-color, high-gloss, museum-quality photographs of influential Indian men in beautiful settings throughout North America, says Elizabeth Griffith, producer of the calendar.

"We choose people that other people see as role models," said Griffith, adding that James E. Billie, Chairman of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, was chosen this year because "he is a very talented man" who has become a source of inspiration to young Native Americans.

Billie has been the elected Chairman, or 'Chief,' of the Seminole Tribe of Florida since 1979. He is also an educator and well-known entertainer in the folk-music industry, with four CD's to his credit. His latest, released this summer, is *Seminole Fire*, a collection of Seminole legends which is being considered for a Grammy nomination.

In addition to his responsibilities as the leader of the economically emerging Tribe, Chairman Billie is also a dedicated father and husband.

In the 2001 calendar, Billie appears wearing a traditional and colorful Seminole patchwork jacket. Billie, a member of the Bird Clan, is shown with a hawk seen in the background standing on the branch of a tree.

The picture was taken at the Billie Swamp



JUNE: The Chief has his day – 30 of them!

Safari, an eco-tourism resort on the Seminole Tribe's Big Cypress Reservation.

Along with Chairman Billie, 13 other Native American men appear in the 8 1/2 by 11-inch calendar. The men included in the calendar are bull rider, personal trainer and actor Doug Griffith (Chippewa/Cherokee), actor and singer Jerry McDonald (Mohawk), songwriter Johnny Guerrero (Yagoi/Apache), performer and personal fitness trainer Jason De Hoyos (Crow), singer and songwriter Robert Mirabal (Taos Pueblo), artist Eric Schweig (Inuit), entertainers Stephen and Lee Tiger – Lee is also the Seminole Tribe's Tourism consultant – (Miccosukee), artist David Evencosunder (Shoshoni), actor and model Clint (Salish), and educator Flint Taibitsi Carney (Comanche).

Griffith says the calendar sells for \$15 apiece, and that while for that price one can get a colorful calendar of handsome Indian men, one can also be making a child very happy since the profits go to a fund for charity for poor Indian children.

"We have been doing this since 1999 and all the profits are donated to Indian kids on the small reservations," said Griffith, adding that last year the profits went to kids in the Pima Indian Reservation in Arizona to help them celebrate Christmas.

The calendar can be purchased on line at [www.nativelifecalendar.com](http://www.nativelifecalendar.com) or [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com). For more information, contact CaLiGa Productions at (954) 973-7461.

## Special Delivery For Swamp Safari

**By Libby Blake**  
**BIG CYPRESS** — The "roosters" among the staff have been seen lately running around the grounds at Billie Swamp Safari. The reason – the presence of four new long legged, sleek necked, big eyed "chicks." Luckily for these "chicks," the "roosters," who some people say have been competing among themselves for Best Buffed and Most Testosterone titles (it's a macho thing), are too slow to catch them.

These escapades, which occur several times a day, have raised more than a few eyebrows since the "chicks" they are chasing could very well be males and are only between two and four months old.

The new "chicks" are, in fact, baby ostriches hatched recently at the Safari. They are the survivors of the 14-egg nest laid during the last mating season.

When the chicks hatched they were between 10 – 12 inches tall making them easy prey for bobcats, panthers, raccoons, and fox. Because of this, the Safari staff placed them in special pens and turned over their care to Meriam Molstad who has been working at the Safari for about six months and is the resident "expert" on ostriches.

Den mother Meriam has had her hands full with the babies. Ostriches grow up to one foot per month and require special diets and handling if they are to survive.

Because of the rapid growth, the ostriches are prone to deformed legs. Exercise and the right diet are key in the prevention of this. The chicks, who by nature are very curious creatures, must be watched constantly when allowed to run outside their pen. The pen must be kept free of anything shiny. They will peck at shiny objects like glass, wire, nuts, and bolts and could possibly ingest them causing possible trauma or digestion problems.

Being a relative to the bird, ostriches are also easily stressed. They must be accustomed to human touch. By "game" playing while they are learning to run and handling them in a playful manner from the start, the stress is greatly reduced. (Maybe the Safari "roosters" are good for something.)

Although the chicks won't reach maturity until 18 – 24 months, Molstad says they will be returned to the open range of the Safari's eco-park when they are between four and five feet tall.

"They will be big enough so that they are no longer prey for the other animals and should adjust well when back in their family," stated Molstad.



Young chicks need special care to survive the first few months of life.

### Ostrich Trivia

Ostrich meat, although red, has fewer calories and cholesterol than skinned chicken or turkey.

Ostrich eyes are bigger than their brains.

Ostrich feet are grounded and used as an aphrodisiac.

Ostrich brains were a food favorite of the Roman Emperor Heliogabalus. During one banquet he served up Heliogabalus for his guests.

Ostriches are mentioned in the Bible (Job 36: 14-16) and in Shakespeare (Henry VI).

Avocado leaves, parsley, and salt are poisonous to ostriches.

The movements of some of the dinosaurs in *Jurassic Park* were based on the movements of ostriches.

During the twelfth century, The Ostrich Inn in Colnbrook, England, was the scene for some gruesome events. The innkeeper, Thomas Jarman, and his wife had a special room reserved for wealthy travelers; the bed of which was set over a trapdoor which led to a beer cellar below. While the unfortunate traveler slept, the Jarman would release the bolts on the trapdoor thereby tipping the sleeper into a huge cauldron of boiling water below. This continued until the horse of their last victim, Thomas Cole, was discovered wandering loose.

## AIM Files Complaint Against Festival

**ST. PETERSBURG** — The American Indian Movement of Florida has filed state and federal civil rights complaints against the Chasco Fiesta of New Port Richey, FL., citing the festival's disgraceful, shameful and racist depiction of American Indian culture and spirituality.

Of particular concern is the pageant in which Indian people are referred to as "savages" (a depiction included on the Chasco Festival web site) and the spirituality as "heathen." Additionally Florida State statutes regarding intolerance towards or creating hostility towards religions were also cited in the complaints filed.

The Chasco Fiesta centers around the mythical "Queen Chasco" of the Calusa Indians. The

Calusa were decimated by the invasions of Colonialist conquistadors, principally Hernando DeSoto.

Queen Chasco is venerated because she abandoned her "savage heathen" ways and guided the colonialist invaders in their quest to commit genocide and steal from the indigenous peoples. Throughout the pageant, Indian peoples are referred to as savages and heathen and the main theme is the greater value of the dominant society over the indigenous culture and the fortitude of Queen Chasco in making the choice.

Florida AIM has complained about the festival for five years. There has been no substantive change, thus prompting the complaint.

## Education Trip to Washington

**HOLLYWOOD** — All interested Tribal youth in grades 10-12 are invited to apply for the Close Up Washington program, which will be held on Jan. 28-Feb. 3, 2001.

Close Up Washington gives students the unique opportunity to experience the political process first-hand in the nation's capital.

Seminole students who participated in the 2000 program were able to tour the heart of political Washington as well as attend workshops on issues affecting Indian Country.

"This has been one of the most productive weeks I have ever seen, as a life-long educator, with respect to educating the students about the relationship between the United States Government and Native Americans," said Education Director Vivian Crooks, after attending the 2000 program.

All interested youth must have: A 2.0 grade point average, good attendance in school, no behavior problems.

Students who wish to apply for the program can see their respective reservation Education Counselor. Applications must be completed by Monday, September 25, 2000.

**Education Counselors:**  
**Big Cypress** – Patrick McElroy, Learning Resource Center, HC 61, Box 61, Clewiston, FL 33400, (863) 983-6659.  
**Immokalee** – Norita Yzaguirre, Immokalee Seminole Library, 303 Lena Frank Drive, Immokalee, FL 34142, (941) 657-3400.  
**Brighton** – Louise Gopher, Adult Education Building, Route 6 Box 585, Okeechobee, FL 34974, (863) 763-3572.  
**Hollywood** – June Degnan, D.S.O. Library, 3100 NW 63rd Ave, Hollywood, FL 33024, (954) 989-6840 x1222.  
**Tampa** – Carol Foret, Tampa Field Office/Library, 5219 N. Orient Rd. Bldg. K, Tampa, FL 33610, (813) 626-5765.

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# Black Jack Blues

So here I am Raiford Starke with my band the Wet Blades on stage in the middle of a crazy callopie of musical gaming machines, roulette wheels and green felt blackjack tables. We are high above the bar, in front of a big screen TV, at Fitzgerald's Casino on the banks of the Johnny River, in the middle of the cotton-growing delta, in God bless Starkansaw. I was on a roll tonight — a lucky roll. The Wheel of Fame was spinning and I was along for the ride. I decided to take a radical departure from playing the usual loungey casino standards and stepped into a new Starke country classic:

*You don't see Dolly Parton without her falsies  
You don't see Johnny Cash not dressed in black  
You don't see Willie Nelson without his toupee  
And you don't see Raiford Starke without his hat. . .*

The crowd just stood there in gestalt-like silence. The silence of awe shucks. Skip, the house sound-man, came running up to me. "Is that your song Raiford?"

"Why yes," I said.  
"Sha-za-yyamm!  
That thar's a boner-fide hee-yyit! You really flashed 'em out with that one, good buddy. You might as well quit while yer ahead. . ."

"What do you mean?" I said, "We still have three more sets to go. . ."

"Truth is," Skip said, "the management wants y'all to knock off early." He handed me an envelope with our pay. I opened it up and \$74 dollars cash fell out. I took my \$24 band leader's pay off the top and paid the other four guys \$12.50 a piece.

As I'm putting my guitar in the case the drummer approaches me. "Look," he said, "I don't want you to get the wrong idea — this isn't me that's talking, it's the rest of the band. I — I mean — they want to know why we're only getting \$12.50 each instead of the \$200 a man that you promised us?"

I looked at him and shook my head. "I said . . . that if you play your cards right, each of you guys will make \$200 dollars a night at this gig. On top of that, if you really play your cards right, heck, they just might ask us back to play here again. So here's a little gambling money. Now go hit those blackjack tables and — I'm tellin' ya son — walk away when you hit 200!"

The drummer's face was as red as a Ruskin tomato.

"Oh ye of little faith," I said as I flashed him a gambler's grin and led him and the rest of the boys in the band over to the blackjack tables. I ponied up a 10 spot. "Deal me in!" I barked to the gentle-lady dealing the card game.

She gave me two, \$5 chips and dealt me a jack and a four. Her hand was showing a king "Hit me, baby!" I said as the boys in the band gathered around me. She dealt a seven. That makes 21! She busted, making ol' Raiford Starke \$10 richer.

"Well it looks like it's your lucky day," the dealer half-smiled, passing me two more chips. I bet all four chips and got dealt an Ace and a King. Black Jack! I got back six more chips — giving me a total of 50 bucks. After about a half-hour of Blackjack, I had accumulated piles of chips and was over \$800 richer. My band-mates — even the drummer — were awe

(shucks) struck, cheering me on: "Raiford! Raiford!" I even noticed Phil the casino owner, who'd been watching me for the last few minutes joining in the celebration.

You were no doubt about it, I was unstoppable. "You want your 200 bucks, guys?" I said to the band, "I'm gonna get it for ya!"

And with that I got them to each hand me back the \$12.50 I had paid them and put it all down on the table. I could hear ol' Phil. "Yeah Raiford!" he said, "Go, go, go buddy! I smell another Black Jack! Put it all in there!"

It was double or nothing. She dealt the cards. I had an Ace and an eight, that makes 19. Not a bad hand, especially since she was only showing a six. I was going to stay with what I had.

She drew a king and a four. That gave her 20. Just like that I had lost almost \$900. I could hear Phil cheering while the once euphoric band members converged on me. I had to get another chance to win that money back. I scoured my wallet and pockets for any dead presidents or statesmen that might be hiding

around. All I could find was a 100 franc note. "Sorry we don't take French money," Phil said.

"C'mon, Phil buddy, you gotta give me one more chance. . ." I pleaded.

After a minute or two, Phil decided he was gonna bend the rules a little. We made a deal. The house would take the 100 franc note and give me one chance to redeem my lost winnings. If I lose, then five months of indentured servitude as the house band at Fitzgerald's in Starkansaw.

Phil winked at the dealer. A couple of mean bodyguards moved in adjusting their hearing aids. All eyes were on me as I cut the deck. Just before she began to deal, I put my hand out. "Shuffle it one more time," I ordered, winking at my boys in the band. I could tell they were impressed.

She dealt me a king and a jack and she had an ace showing. "Would you like to buy Blackjack insurance?" she said.

I remembered the sage advice of Sunset Beach Pete: Never buy Blackjack insurance. It's almost always a bluff. I could feel the guys in the band looking over my shoulder. I could almost hear them counting their winnings. "We don't need no stinking insurance!" I defiantly slapped that king and jack on the table.

She flipped over a jack. A black jack. Phil doubled over in laughter. Me and the band? Well the bartender said we were as white as an albino's belly button.

So here I am again, Raiford Starke with my band the Bad Hands on stage above the bar in the middle of Fitzgerald's Casino. The money machines are pulsing in my head like a Chinese music war. Yeah, five months can seem like a lifetime when you're strumming a "D" chord against a din of gaming machines that are in the key of "C" — six hours a night, seven days a week. Call it the Uninsured Gambler's Gig. Well folks, I've got to go. It's break time and the drummer has called a band meeting. . .

— Raiford Starke is a Fort Lauderdale blues man who long ago hit a soft 17.

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# Donna Reynolds

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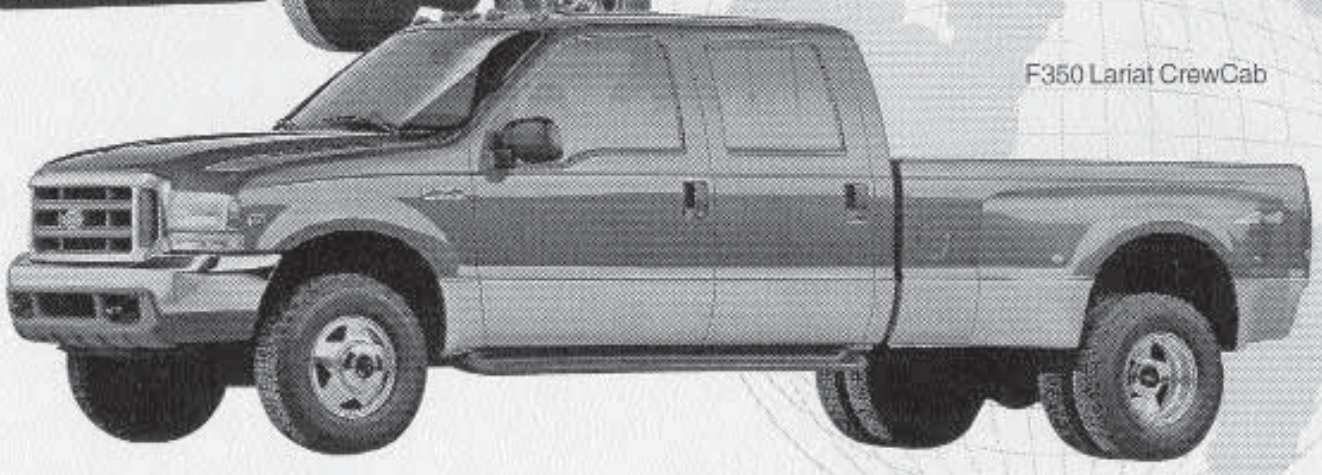
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# Wet Blade

Continued from page 1

Coupled with the actual blade is a radar gun that determines the speed of the tractor, a peristaltic pump which moves fluid from a patented Flo-thru cell, all of which is hooked to a small computer which regulates the rate of fluid onto the blade.

As the blade cuts through a plant stem, fluid is deposited on the stalk. Thanks to the biology of plants this seemingly simple procedure has the Burch Company set to become a major player in the field of plant management.

“All plants have moisture in their extremities,” explains Dr. Tom Whitson, professor of plant sciences and extension weed specialist at the University of Wyoming. It was Whitson who hosted the field day at the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s High Plains Research Station outside of Cheyenne on Aug. 18. At the field day, he presented the results of some of his research using the Wet Blade.

“When a plant is cut, the plant at the tip of the stalk is immediately drawn deep into the plant’s roots system as it seeks to preserve its sugars and nutrients and moisture. This process is called xylem cavitation,” Whitson explains.

“Think of a straw in fluid. If you put your finger over the end, you can lift the straw up and the fluid will stay in the straw. But, if you remove your finger the fluid will immediately slip back down the straw. It’s the same if you cut a plant.

“Now, as this fluid is very quickly being sucked back into the plant, with the Burch Wet Blade we can put a drop of herbicide on that plant stem. The herbicide is getting sucked back into the plant along with the plant’s moisture. It’s this delivery system that is showing so much promise in weed control.”

Tom Burch, a father of three, has no degree in horticulture. (He does have a bachelor’s degree with a double major – chemistry and social sciences – from Coker College). He describes cavitation with less scientific terms, but far more graphically.

“Suppose you were working equipment and accidentally dumped five gallons of gasoline on yourself,” Tom says, raising his eyebrows for emphasis. “Now, suppose you’re lucky and no one lights a match and you get inside and take off your clothes and take a shower. It’s pretty likely you’re going to be all right. All the chemicals are just washed off.

“But, suppose I had a single syringe of gasoline and was able to put it right into your vein. Who knows what that little bit of gasoline would do. It might not kill you, but it would certainly cause some damage.

“That’s the difference between the Wet Blade and using sprays to control weeds. You can spray all you want, but the spray has to go through leaves, and bark and stalks and stems. If it rains, the chemicals are washed off and the effectiveness is greatly reduced, not to mention the pollution you’re doing to the environment.

“With the Wet Blade, the herbicide is injected directly into the plant. But, we’re also working on introducing natural biological controls such as live pathogens or fungal spores that might control certain invasive species without chemicals at all.

“And, you don’t always have to kill plants. What if you use a Wet Blade with fertilizer while you’re mowing your grass? Or growth regulators? You might be able to cut your grass with a Wet Blade, apply a growth regulator and only have to mow your grass once a month instead of once a week. If you’re a big grower with thousands of acres – like a golf course or a public park or road right of ways or power lines – that could save you lots of time and money.

“There’s also a study being done now in Biloxi, Miss., using soy beans. It seems while the soy bean plant is young, if you just clip the top of the plant and inject a certain enzyme, it causes the plant to have an explosive growth spurt resulting in increased yield. They’re very excited about using the Wet Blade for that purpose.

“Who knows what we might be doing with the Wet Blade in the future. It seems like every time we use it on a test plot someone comes up with a new idea or new application we haven’t thought of yet. It’s amazing. I’m really excited.”

Whitson, a soft speaking professor with a smile as broad as Wyoming’s sky, is not nearly as effusive as Burch. But, in his own way, he too is trumpeting the benefit of the Burch Wet Blade – and with good reason. Weeds are a major problem in the West.

Whitson, who is also the editor and chief writer of the best selling book, “Weeds of the West”, has spent his entire professional life in weed control. Wyoming, like nearly every state in the country and every country in the world, is facing an onslaught of invasive weeds.

How big is the problem? Robert Eplee, recently retired director of the USDA’s Animal Plant and Health inspection service, was quoted in *Vistas* magazine as saying: “Invasive species are second only to habitat loss as a threat to biodiversity. An estimated 8,000 potentially invasive plant species exist in the United States today, which devour about 39,000 acres per day, costing the public more than \$135 billion per year in losses and

control.”

The problem of invasive weeds has not escaped Wyoming, as Whitson explains. “From 1880 to 1934 Wyoming was open range,” Whitson says quietly in his slow country drawl. “During that time ranchers grazed nine million sheep and three million cattle. With all that grazing, native grasses were nearly wiped out and exotic species – and in some cases native species that the livestock wouldn’t eat – really took over the land. What all that overgrazing did was leave an ecological mess.”

Whitson says that since the end of open range, Wyoming land managers have been trying to correct some of the problems, often with minimal results, by spending over \$20 million per year on spraying campaigns.

“Let me define a weed,”

Whitson, a past president of the Western Society of Weed Science, says. “Many people say a weed is any plant growing in a place you don’t want it to grow. But I believe a better definition is, a weed is a plant that interferes with management objectives for a given area of land at a given point in time.

“I think that’s a more accurate description of a weed. The milkweed, which we used to spend millions of dollars trying to eradicate is now a crop in some places. As we discover more about plants, today’s weed might well become tomorrow’s cash crop.

“So, I prefer to think a weed must fit into the objectives of land management. Many of the weeds that are real problems in the West were brought into this country as ornamental plants. They’re actually quite pretty plants. And some have very delicate names like baby-breath, which is used in floral arrangements.

“The trouble is, these plants take over the pasture lands where ranchers are raising livestock. The cows and sheep won’t eat these invasive plants, and they spread. In Wyoming, the carrying capacity for land is one cow per three acres of land. Some of these invasive species take over the land and quickly the pasture is filled with a plant that may look pretty,



COMPARE: Dr. Tom Whitson cut plant on left with Wet Blade system. Control plant on right was simply cut, and regrew.

but actually destroys the value of the land because livestock aren’t getting enough nutrients. They’re weeds because they interfere with management objectives for that land.”

Whitson has been on the battle line trying to stop the spread of weeds. Many defied any form of control, whether spraying, burning, or cutting. Some weeds in fact were just left untreated because regulators knew anything else was futile. But, that view is changing after Whitson began using the first Wet Blade in Wyoming two years ago.

“There are numerous plants we couldn’t control with conventional methods,” he says. “Dalmation toadflax, for one, is an exotic plant brought here as an ornamental. But, it has over-run many pastures. You could cut it, spray it, and burn it and the next year it would resprout, so effectively you just wasted your time and money. It was impossible to control.

“But, when I got the Wet Blade, I figured, ‘what the heck,’ and decided to see if I could do anything with toadflax. I used the herbicide Tordon at one quart per acre. It totally destroyed the toadflax, and Tordon isn’t even recommended for toadflax.

“It was clear the herbicide was taken down into the plant and the entire root system was killed. You could walk through the test plot and pick out the dead root systems. Before the Wet Blade, it was impossible to control, but I got 100 percent control.”

The reason the normally resilient toadflax plant was killed was because of the Wet Blade combining with cavitation, says Dr. Walter Skroch, who adds there is scientific evidence to back up the claim.

Skroch was a professor of horticulture with responsibilities in plant ecology and plant management at North Carolina State University until he retired in 1994 after a 30-year career. Since then, he has served as a consultant for the Burch Company.



Blue dye shows how the Wet Blade leaves just a drop of fluid on the stalk of cut plants, allowing cavitation to deliver knockout.

“There has been research using x-rays and carbon 14 to determine how effective the Wet Blade is at delivering herbicide into the root system of plants,” Skroch, who is also a Fellow of the Weed Science Society of America, says. “Using conventional spray applicators, it was found that only one to two percent of the herbicide reached the root system.

“But, with the Wet Blade we’re getting up to 30 percent of the herbicide into the roots. All indications are we’re getting herbicide right into the plant instead of on flowerbeds or sidewalks or the ground or drifting into the air. It’s going right into the plant.

“That’s why we’re getting such a big kick in effectiveness. You get the right chemistry and you get the punch. With the Wet Blade, the chemical is going right in the active zone, and this is the only system on the market that can do that.”

Because it showed such promise, Whitson enlisted Thomas Smith, natural resource manager of the F.E. Warren Air Force Base, the nation’s ballistic missile operations center just outside Cheyenne. Smith – like most Wyoming agricultural managers – was having a problem with Canada thistle, another exotic plant that was nearly impossible to control.

But, unlike other weed control experts, Smith had complications. Warren AFB is home to two rare species that fall under Environmental Protection Agency guidelines.

“We have the Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, which is a threatened species, and the Colorado butterfly plant, which is currently proposed for listing because it is rare,” Smith says. “Because of

these two species, anything we do to control weeds is very scrutinized.

“We can’t just use sprays, because the wind drift could easily impact the mouse or the butterfly plant. When Tom Whitson told me about the Wet Blade, I thought it was worth trying.

“We used the Wet Blade on 10

David McMahan, operations manager for Parker, Colo., is also interested in the Wet Blade. He has his own special reasons for seeking a Wet Blade for his town, 25 miles south east of Denver, and came to the Field Day demonstration to investigate.

“We’re having major problems trying to control leafy spurge,” McMahan says of the 80 acres he is responsible for maintaining. “The trouble is, most of the land is on Cherry Creek, which flows into the Platte River which provides water for Denver. Obviously, we can’t spray herbicides that could drift into the water system.”

“We’ve tried everything in Parker to control the spurge. We even had a herd of goats that we only fed spurge so they would develop a taste for it, then let them loose on the fields. Trouble is, goats may eat spurge, but give them a choice, and they’ll eat something else. Also, the plant resprouted and continued to grow.

“The same with the beetles we used. We’d collect millions of them and turn them lose, and they would eat the spurge, but it always came back. Nothing worked. Now, after having seen the demonstration plot and listening to Tom Whitson, I really want to get one of the Wet Blade systems and try it. We can mow right up to the water’s edge and there isn’t any drift. We can control the spurge with normal mowing. It really sounds promising.”

Whitson certainly agrees with that assessment. In fact, based on the promising results he’s already achieved with the Wet Blade, he has recently received two grants — \$100,000 from the Federal Integrated Pest Management fund, and \$350,000 from the National Research Institute. Both grants are for further Wet Blade research.

“Really, the Wet Blade system is rewriting the entire book on weed control,” Whitson says. “Heck, just on the little I’ve done, I see the work that needs to still be done.

“For example, I recently mowed a field of leafy spurge, but instead of mowing it at three inches, I mowed it at one foot high and found out I got the same 95 percent control as the 3-inch cut. What this means is we can better target

pulling a disc and actually planting seeds off the back. The advantage of the Wet Blade is that no chemical ever hits the ground, so the seeds won’t be impacted by the herbicide you’re using in the front.

“I’ve been able to get 100 percent control of certain weed species – and with half the chemicals that I would normally use – on weeds that never responded to anything.

“The Wet Blade is very exciting. It really is a breakthrough in weed management. We’re getting results that are unheard of, and we’re just beginning to use it. We don’t even have the lowest dosages figured out, or what type of herbicides would work best on what plants. All I know is it has already shown itself to



Dr. Tom Whitson: “The Wet Blade system is rewriting the book on weed control.”

have numerous advantages over any system we’ve tried so far.

“I’m excited about the Wet Blade. It will keep weed managers busy for a long time doing research on finding the most effective ways of controlling weeds and managing land. It’s revolutionizing the way we control weeds, and the work is just beginning.”

That work will continue thanks to the Seminole Tribe’s investment. The tribe purchased 15 percent of the Burch Wet Blade Company, and that involvement can be traced back to Carl Baxley.

Baxley, the Hollywood Reservation Board Representative who operates the largest individual cattle ranch on the Big Cypress Reservation, was intrigued when Tom Burch pitched the Wet Blade at a Board meeting.

“The Board voted not to get involved with the Wet Blade, but I thought it was really a good device that the Tribe should investigate,” Baxley says. “I thought it made great sense that he was able to put herbicides right onto plants instead of spraying them all over the ground. The Tribe has over 100,000 acres of land, and we’re the second or third largest cattle operation in Florida with 8,000 head.

“It just made sense to me that this could be a way to control wax myrtle and melaleuca which are taking over our land. It was worth looking into.

“So, I contacted James Billie and got him interested. We flew to North Carolina and saw the operation. Burch is a good spokesman and he had patents on this system and James got interested and now we’re partners.

“I think it’s a good investment and the day will come when every football field, golf course and lawn in America will be mowed with a Wet Blade. Why not? You can control weeds at the same time you mow and it doesn’t even hurt the grass.”

**For more information about the Burch Wet Blade, visit the company’s web site at [www.wetblade.com](http://www.wetblade.com), or call (336) 667-9196.**



Guests at Field Day inspect the business side of a Wet Blade to see how it works.

acres of Canada thistle, leafy spurge and toad flax, and had great success. We had very positive results. And the thing with the Wet Blade is we were able to mow right up next to the butterfly plant and remove the weeds without any harm to the butterfly plant. And, because the herbicide doesn’t even reach the ground, it was safe for the jumping mouse as well.

“It’s a way to attack target plants without damaging anything else. I think it shows great promise and I’m interested in continuing to use the Wet Blade to see what else it can do.”

certain species just by raising the cutting edge yet still get the weed control we’re looking for.

“We have to study what plants the Wet Blade will work on, what heights we need to cut, what chemicals, or mixture of chemicals and what chemical rates we have to apply to get control we want. Also, the latest Wet Blade mower is placed on the front of a tractor. That’s very unique.

“But, I’ve been thinking that at the same time you mow for weed control off the front of the tractor, you could be



SPORTS

EIRA Profile:  
Tess Ducheneaux

**By Michael James**  
She's ranked 59 in the world in barrel racing for all ages and all divisions. She won the NBHA Drysdales Super Series Youth Race and the National Horse Corp Series I Youth race. Her face has graced the cover of many magazines as a result of her winning and becoming Josie's Junior World Champion. Most recently she has been named Reserve Champion in barrel racing in the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association, which won her a trip to Albuquerque to compete in the INFR. Her winnings include horse trailers, saddles, belt buckles, trophies, ribbons, swings and more. Hard to believe this much talent is wrapped up in the body of an eleven year old.

Tess Ducheneaux is a member of the Sioux Tribe out of South Dakota. She is the daughter of professional horse trainer and retired barrel racer Shireen Ducheneaux, and equine dentist and retired professionalbull rider Boyd Ducheneaux. Tess resides in Ocala with younger brother Zane, who, mom says, will surely follow in dad's foot steps, as all men in the family are bull riders. She does not attend public school because of the travel involved in her sport. Tess has been home schooled for 2 years now.

"I like it a lot, because I am gone all the time and this works out better," she says.  
Gone all the time is right. Tess says the family is away every weekend competing. Her travel has been extensive, including Oklahoma, Texas, North and South Dakota, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Louisiana.  
Tess doesn't seem to be suffering socially either. She's a member of the EIRA, NBHA, FBRA, and the Sun Coast Club. "Sometimes we wish she wasn't as socially active as she is," says mom Shireen.

Tess attributes her love of barrel racing and horses to her mom who put her on a horse when she was just 3 years old. The family owns four horses and Tess shares in their care. However, it is an eleven year old sorrel mare that brings her to the money window. Nels Golden Girl helped her pick up her largest winnings to date from the NBHA Open World Championship where they ranked eighth in the world.

Tess has never been on a horse that was not trained specifically for barrel racing. It is this reason that Tess has the utmost confidence in the horse she rides.



11-year-old Tess Ducheneaux is near top of class.

Michael James

"Confidence comes in knowing the horse," she says.  
Although Tess has future plans to go professional and join the WPRA and compete in the NFR, her mother has a different plan.  
"She's definitely going to college, maybe the Chiropractic field or even an equine dentist like her father," says Shireen.  
When she isn't riding a horse, she plays the drums and loves to Roller Skate.  
But, right now her focus is on the INFR. We wish her the best of luck as she goes on to compete in Albuquerque.

Alzamora, 18.17, 10 points; Joshua Torres, 18.34, 9 points; Benny Hernandez, 18.92, 8 points; Bucky Williams, 21.97, 7 points; Georgie Williams, 22.42.  
**Junior Break Away** – Georgie Williams, 6.46, 10 points; Joshua Torres, 19.82, 9 points; **Junior Calf Riding** – Jack Turtle, 6.61, 10 points; Roy Stewart, 6.51, 9 points; Kaylee Alzamora, 2.32, 8 points; Breanne Hurst, 1.54, 7 points; Danielle Webster, 1.29, 6 points. **Junior Boot Scramble** – Kelci Rosbough, 10 points, Kaylee Alzamora, 9 points, Breanne Hurst, 8 points; Justina Billie, 7 points; Danielle Webster, 6 points. **Senior Division ages 12 to 16 years old-Senior Barrels** – Jennifer Deveaugh, 18.769, 10 points; Jamie Long, 19.643, 9 points; Lindsay Fielder, 20.435, 8 points; Josh Alzamora, 21.501, 6 points. **Senior Hairpin** – Ayze Henry, 9.124, 10 points; Jamie Long, 9.342, 9 points; Clint Parrish, 9.602, 8 points; Frankie Garcia, 9.806, 7 points; Jessica Alvarez, 10.051, 6 points. **Senior Pole Bending** – Jamie Long, 24.967, 10 points; Jessica Alvarez, 25.022, 9 points; Ayze Henry, 25.415, 8 points; Brooke Miller, 26.758, 7 points; Lindsey Fielder, 27.526, 6 points. **Senior Goat Tying** – Clint Parrish, 11.79, 10 points; Frankie Garcia, 14.98 seconds, 9 points; Josh Alzamora, 17.58, 8 points; Jennifer Deveaugh, 18.31, 7 points; Jamie Long, 22.3, 6 points.

**Senior Flag Race** – Jamie Long, 12.956, 10 points; Clint Parrish, 14.027, 9 points; Lindsey Fielder, 14.643, 8 points; Frankie Garcia, 14.729, 7 points; Ayze Henry, 15.308, 6 points. **Senior Break Away** – Clint Parrish, 2.99, 10 points; Frankie Garcia, 29.14 seconds, 9 points. **Senior Junior Bulls** – Jerome Davis, 6.77, 10 points; Jarrid Smith, 5.4, 9 points. **Junior and Senior Team Roping** – Joshua Torres and Clint Parrish, 12.74, 10 points; Jonathan Torres and Frankie Garcia, 14.44, 9 points. **All Around – Girls** – Pee Wee – Morning Star Webster. **Junior** – Kaylee Alzamora. **Senior** – Jamie Long. **Boys** – Pee Wee – Nikki Russell. **Junior** – Joshua Torres. **Senior** – Clint Parrish.

Brighton Women Take NASA Tourney

**By Libby Blake**  
**HOLLYWOOD** — "Brighton" women's team took on the heat, humidity, intermittent rain and five challengers to take the 2000 NASA All Indian Softball Tournament August 18 – 19. The team went to the top spot in the double elimination event without a loss.  
Eleven teams competed in the women's division. "Players," from Mississippi, had to settle for second. Both of their losses came at the hands (and bats) of Brighton. Third place went to the "T-Birds," from Mississippi, and "Seneca," from New York, took fourth. In the thirteen team men's division, "Seminoles" were "up the creek" when Alabama team, Poarch Creek, put them in the loser's bracket in game 21. The local team then beat the "Indians," from Cherokee, and faced off with the 'Creek again in the finals. Fourth place went to "Dirty Birds" of Mississippi.

EIRA Ends Season

**BIG CYPRESS** — In the final two rodeos of the season, cowboys and cowgirls competed to see who will represent the Eastern Indian Rodeo Association this year in Albuquerque.  
Also, the end of the season marks the end of Laquita Jumper's two years duty as EIRA secretary. Her last rodeo was Aug. 26 at Brighton. She is passing the "duty" to another.  
The annual EIRA Banquet is scheduled Oct. 16 at the Brighton Bingo Hall. If you need tickets or more information you can contact Laquita.  
The following are the results of the July 29 and Aug. 26 rodeos:  
**July 29** – **Bare Back** – Hank Winnier 67, 10 points; Alex Johns, 62, 9 points. **Saddle Bronc Roping** – Howard Edmundson; 9.59, 10 points; Marty Johns, 13.38, 9 points; Naha Jumper, 13.4, 8 points. **Women's Break Away** – Billie Tiger, 8.5, 10 points. **Steer Wrestling** – Marty Johns, 3.98, 10 points; Josh Jumper, 4.53, 9 points; Corbin Warren, 5.37, 8 points; Howard Edmundson, 5.51, 7 points. **Team Roping** – Marvin Bowers and Hank Winnier, 8.57, 10 points; Parker Johns and Shawn John, 8.78, 9 points; Marty Jones and Norman Johns, 10.6, 8 points; Amos and Joe Tiger, 10.63, 7 points. **Women's Barrels** – Tess Dechenaux, 16.406, 10 points; Holly "Scooter" Johns, 16.408, 9 points; Clarissa Bowers, 16.68, 8 points; Trina Bowers, 16.812, 7 points. **Bull Riding** – Hank Winnier, 64, 10 points; Justin Gopher, 61, 9 points; Kiel Jumper, 57, 8 points. **Special Events-Mutton Busting** – Brandtley Osceola, 10.18; Colby Strickland, 5.05; Nauthkee Henry, 4.31. **Calf Riding** – Ethan Gopher, 5.76 seconds; Dayne Johns, 3.47 seconds; Nader Jumper, 2.35 seconds. **50 and Over Break Away** – Rudy Osceola, 6.15 seconds. **Novice Barrels** – Mackenzie Johns,16.62; Jade Braswell, 17.11; Reba Osceola, 17.7624. **Beginner Barrels** – Nauthkee Henry, 17.963; Danielle Webster, 18.152; Sheyanna Osceola, 18.335. **Junior Bulls** – Stephen Billie, 68; Jarred Smith, 67. **All Around Cowboy** – Hank Winnier, 30 points. **August 26** – **Bare Back** – Adam Turtle, 50. **Steer Wrestling** – Dean Conrad, 4.29; Jeff Johns, 4.34; Naha Jumper, 4.63. **Men's Calf Roping** – Naha Jumper, 13.63; Marty Johns, 17.85. **Women's Break Away Roping** – Theresa Bowers, 9.45. **Saddle Bronc Riding** – Robert Simpson, 63; Jay Louis, 60. **Team Roping** – Reno and Rodney Osceola, 17.69; Jay Louis and Robert Simpson, 24.23; Marvin Bowers and Naha Jumper, 27.43; Cicero and Rudy Osceola, 32.87. **Women's Break Roping** – Tess Ducheneaux, 15.624; Emma Johns, 16.388; Holly Johns, 16.427; Shelby Osceola, 16.502. **Bull Riding** – Justin Gopher, 67. **Special Events-Mutton Busting** – Nauthkee Henry, 19.57; Brandtley Osceola, 5.56; Jaryaca Baker, 2.81. **Calf Riding** – Randel Osceola, 4.87; Roy Stewart, 3.31; Dayne Johns, 2.78; Nathan Gopher, 2.04. **Novice Barrels** – Marilee Johns, 16.697; Mary Huff, 18.235. **50 And Over Break Away Roping** – Moses Jumper, 5.72; Paul Bowers, Sr., 5.86. **Beginners Barrel Racing** – Sheyanna Osceola, 17.049; Nauthkee Henry, 17.364; Danielle Webster, 18.423. **Junior Bulls** – Jarred Smith, 5.19; Zack Billie, 3.71. **All Around Cowboy** – Naha Jumper, 26 points.

EIRA Final Standings

**EIRA Year End Winners: Mutton Busting** – Champion Jonathan Robbins \$354.10, Reserve Champion Jamie Gonzales \$351.40. **Beginners Barrels** – Champion Morning Star Webster \$585.30, Reserve Champion Nauthkee Henry \$579. **Junior Bull Riding** – Champion Steven Billie \$645.30, Reserve Champion Clinton Holt \$533.70. **Calf Riding** – Champion Roy Stewart \$521.30, Reserve Champion Josh Johns \$364.90. **Senior Break Away Roping** – Champion Moses Jumper \$1,422, Reserve Champion Rudy Osceola \$543. **Novice Barrels** – Champion Kari Kroeplin \$570. **Reserve Champions** Mackenzie Johns \$515. **EIRA Winners, Indian National Final Qualifiers: Bare Back** – Champion Alex Johns, 77 points; Reserve Champion Adam Turtle, 27 points. **Steer Wrestling** – Champion Naha Jumper, 49 points; Reserve Champion Marty Johns, 44 points. **Women's Break Away** – Champion Billie Tiger, 80 points; Reserve Champion Jo Leigh Johns, 27 points. **Men's Calf Roping** – Champion Naha Jumper, 60.5 points; Reserve Champion Marty Johns, 53 points. **Bull Riding** INFR and Year End Champion Justin Gopher, 39 points. Reserve Hank Winnier, 20 points. **INFR Reserve Qualifier** – Happy Jumper. **Saddle Bronc** – Champion Jay Louis, 39 points; Reserve Champion Robert Youngblood, 37 points. **Women's Barrel Racing** – Champion Holly Johns, 74 points; Reserve Champion Tess Ducheneaux, 70 points. **Team Roping Headers** – Champion Marty Johns, 46 points; Reserve Champion Cicero Osceola, 46 points. **Team Roping Heelers** – Champion Shawn John, 46 points; Reserve Champion Shawn Jumper, 42 points. **All Around** – Naha Jumper, 151.5 points.

Second Annual Fun Day Rodeo

**BIG CYPRESS** — The following are the results of the Second Annual Big Cypress Fun Day Rodeo.  
**Pee Wee Division – 7 years and Under-** Jonathan Robbins, 30 seconds, 10 points; Kindal Tindall, 12.33 seconds, 9 points; Morning Star Webster, 9.46 seconds, 8 points; Nauthkee Henry, 5.32 seconds, 7 points; Nikki Russell, 4.95 seconds, 6 points. **Pee Wee Dummy Calf Roping** – Kevin



Barrel racer works his horse around the obstacle before heading for home.

Michael James

Hip, 2 out of 3, 10 points. **Pee Wee Barrels** – Nauthkee Henry, 20.396, 10 points; Kindall Tindall, 22.324, 9 points; Morning Star Webster, 26.11, 8 points; Nikki Russell, 5 points; Ali Alzamora, 48.516, 4 points. **Pee Wee Hairpin** – Kindal Tindall, 9.674, 10 points; Nauthkee Henry, 10.3, 9 points; Morning Star Webster, 11.785, 8 points; Nikki Russell, 17.952, 7 points; Ali Alzamora, 21.837, 7 points. **Pee Wee Pole Bending** – Kindall Tindall, 34.752, 10 points; Morning Star Webster, 39.885, 9 points. **Pee Wee Cones** – Nauthkee Henry, 14.299, 10 points; Morning Star Webster, 14.603, 9 points; Kindall Tindall, 15.657, 8 points; Nauthkee Henry, 20.231, 7 points; Ali Lazamora, 29.309, 6 points. **Pee Wee Boot Scramble** – Nikki Russell, 10 points; Morning Star Webster, 9 points; Nauthkee Henry, 8 points; Kindall Tindall, 7 points. **Pee Wee Goat Tying** – Morning Star Webster, 30.76, 10 points; Nikki Russell, 50.73, 9 points. **Junior Division 8 to 11 years old – Junior Barrels-** Danielle Webster, 20.011, 10 points; Kelci Rosbough, 20.227, 9 points; Kaylee Alzamora, 20.473, 8 points; Joe Hipp, 21.126, 7 points; Benny Hernandez, 22.043, 6 points. **Junior Hair Pin** – Kaylee Alzamora, 10.135, 10 points; Joshua Torres, 10.148, 9 points; Georgie Williams, 10.52, 8 points; Jonathan Torres, 10.503, 7 points; Danielle Webster, 10.703, 6 points. **Junior Pole Bending** – Kelci Rosbough, 25.842, 10 points; Benny Hernandez, 28.24, 9 points; me of seconds, Kaylee Alzamora 28.573, 8 points; Jonathan Torres, 30.168, 7 points; Danielle Webster, 32.926, 6 points. **Junior Goat Tying** – Kaylee



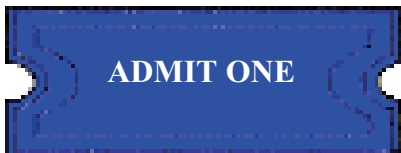
This mutton buster got carried away as rodeo clown tries to catch up.

**away** – Clint Parrish, 2.99, 10 points; Frankie Garcia, 29.14 seconds, 9 points. **Senior Junior Bulls** – Jerome Davis, 6.77, 10 points; Jarrid Smith, 5.4, 9 points. **Junior and Senior Team Roping** – Joshua Torres and Clint Parrish, 12.74, 10 points; Jonathan Torres and Frankie Garcia, 14.44, 9 points. **All Around – Girls** – Pee Wee – Morning Star Webster. **Junior** – Kaylee Alzamora. **Senior** – Jamie Long. **Boys** – Pee Wee – Nikki Russell. **Junior** – Joshua Torres. **Senior** – Clint Parrish.

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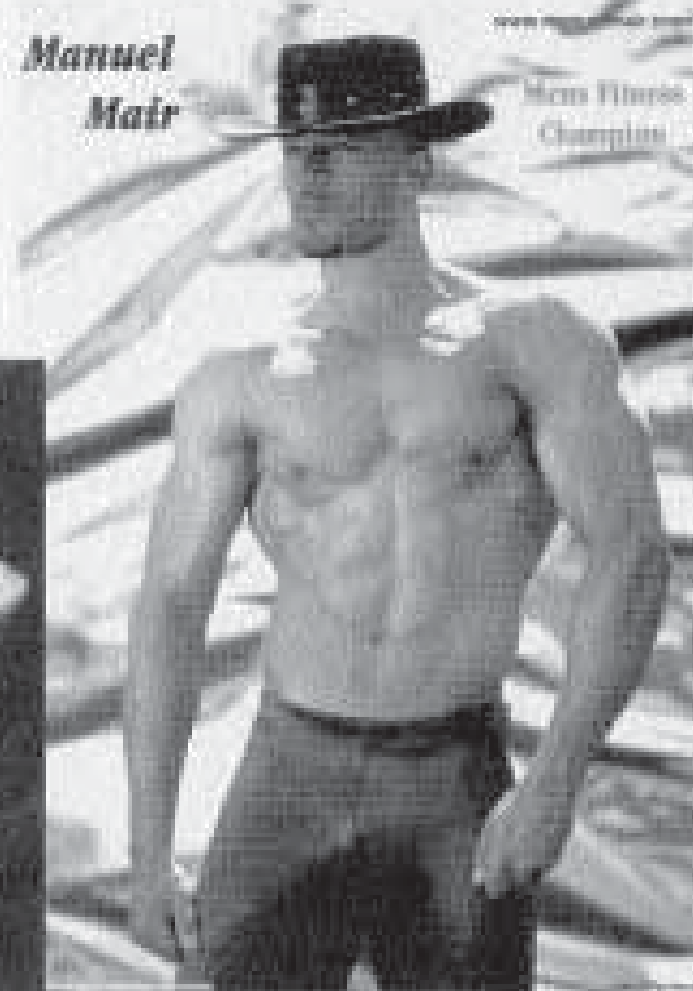
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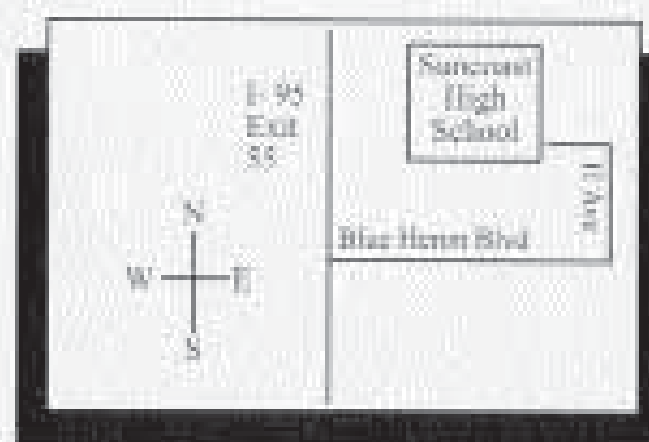


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# Classified • Announcements

## Happy Birthday



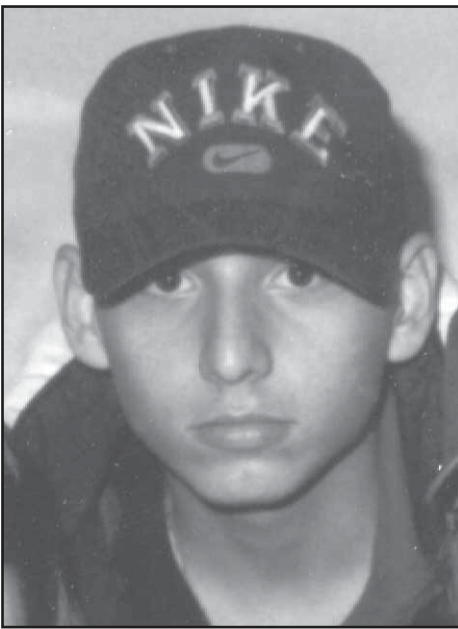
**Happy Birthday to Darnell**, a.k.a. Baby Otter, who will be 3 years old on Aug. 29. From your loving family: **Mom, Grandma, Joan, Aunt Marcella, Toy, Nicole, Devon, and Joe.** Love you always, happy birthday from your loving **Mom, Michelle.**

**Happy Birthday Buddy:** hey I'm not buddy – I'm Thut-kee. You sure are baby. Happy birthday! From, **Rasta and Joan.**

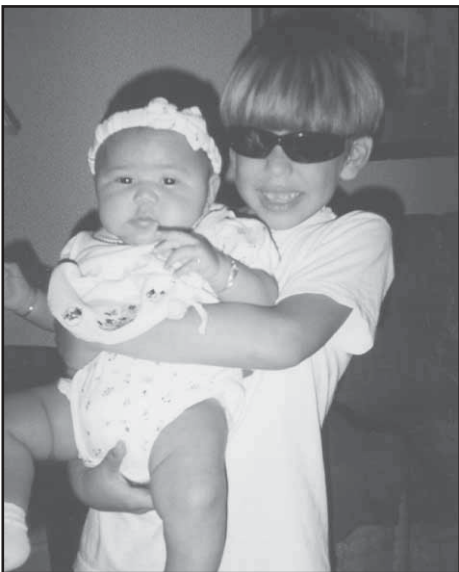


**Happy Birthday to our Mom and Grandma, Nellie Mae Smith** on Aug. 9. You are so very dear to me. I would like to wish you an enjoyable day, filled with the things that make you happy. Love, **Deborah, Megan, Brittany, and Cuauhtemoc.**

**Happy Birthday Uncle Jasper.** Hope you have a wonderful day! Love, **Deborah and Family.**



**Happy 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday** to our big brother, Derrick Smith! Love, **Jonathan & Mariah**



**Jonathan Dustin**, you are my munchkin. I love you a bunch and your sister just as much. We want to give you a cheer because your birthday is here! Happy Birthday Baby! Love, **Mom and Sister.**

**Happy Birthday to Julian Damon Yescas** your first birthday, Aug. 18. We hope your day is filled with fun! Love, **Grandma, Aunts and Uncle** in Miami.

**Happy Birthday to "Tiger" Richard Nelson, Jr.**, on your third birthday, Aug. 19. I hope you have a happy and fun day! Love, **Deborah.**

**Happy Birthday Lori Osceola** on Aug. 15, 2000. Lots of love, **KK, Cara, Curtis & Mom.**

**Happy Birthday Dad, Curtis Osceola** on Aug. 21, 2000. We love you, **Lori, KK, Cara, Curtis.**

We would like to send **September birthday wishes** out to the following people: **Henry Jumper, Sr., Sherri Jumper, Kaylee Jumper, Daniel Jumper, Tisha Walker (Rodriguez), Tara Robbins, Jonathan Robbins, Rheannon Villareal.** Love, **The Family**

## Congratulations

**A message to our daughter, Cuauhtemoc Alexander Yescas**, in recognition on your promotion to the fourth grade. You attended American Heritage through the third grading period and transferred to Village Green in the full-time gifted program for the rest of the school year, each time meeting the challenge to settle in and move ahead with the class.

Both schools were an entirely new school setting for you. We understand changes can be difficult. Still, you made new friends and improved your grades each time. In beginning violin class you performed very well. You also received a yellow belt in Tae Kwon Do, and participated in two seasons of YMCA soccer, and still maintained majority A's in your academics. At Village Green Elementary you received an award for Superior Achievement and Excellence of Performance in Social Studies, and 100 percent attendance for grading periods 1, 2, and 3, and Student VIP award for outstanding performance and achieving excellence. Wow! You did a great job! You certainly keep us on our toes. Keep up the good job and the right attitude.

**Your loving parents, Deborah and Gato.**

**A message to our daughter, Brittany Tatum S. Yescas**, on your promotion to the tenth grade. You overcame major obstacles this school year and maintained a solid grade point average, ending at 3.17. By year's end, the American Academy honored you with student award in Academic Excellence in Pre-Algebra, and the Girl's Junior Varsity basketball coaches honored you with the "Best Hustler Award."

Although you blew out your left knee on Jan. 13, 2000, had major reconstructive knee surgery on March 3, and regular physical therapy, you had courage and motivation to meet your educational demands. We have been right here beside you, showing our support all the way through. It took your willingness and effort to see things through. See what you did! Thank you Brittany on a job well done! Keep up the right attitude.

**Your loving parents, Deborah and Gato.**

**A loving message to our daughter, Megan Jonelle Yescas**, in recognition of her graduation from American Heritage High School on June 11, 2000.

The precious moments of your childhood years have long passed by. Nonetheless, we cherish them for all the days to come. Sharing your simplest moments and being yourself have meant so much. Soon after your birth, Grandfather Henry Clay, named you Haayatpeche, its meaning he said, "First Light of the Day."

The light you have brought us continues to shine. Taking pleasure watching you grow. Waking up every day to greet you and seek your smile. Immediately your training began. Hearing your gentle voice and then hearing them develop into words. Walking you through your challenges. Accompanying you through your many roles and responsibilities; pre-school through high school. Being there during laughter and tears.

We gave you training about family, clan, our religion, discipline, our culture, responsibilities, and non-Indian education, and the larger sub-culture, etc. Your foundation has been long set. It's now your responsibility to build on it, starting with the knowledge and skills you have gained. No matter the circumstances, you have to know who you are and believe in yourself.

As the third female generation from Mickey T. Clay's, you became the first to graduate from high school. Although you faced many difficulties and decisions, you worked hard and completed your high school education. Your graduation is by far a major event and one of many more to come. We encourage you to acquire your B.A. Four years, (more or less) that's all. Just set that goal and commitment and you'll see it through. We are pleased that you are enrolled in college and starting in the fall. It is with great pleasure we say "congratulations to the graduate."

**Your loving parents, Deborah and Gato.**



## Memory



**In Memory of Troy "T-Bone" Jumper** September 10, 1979 – December 25, 1997

We will remember you as a friend and brother. The good times we shared were like no other. As we reminisce about the past. Our paths will cross again, When the almighty Creator lets us in. Love, **Your Family**

**In memory of Troy Jumper** Come have a late lunch with us on Sept. 10 at 3 p.m. at Sherri Jumper's place. T-shirts will be given.



**In Memory Of Gilbert (Gibby) Bowers**

I remember your arrival into the world like yesterday. A blessing from our breath maker and Creator up above. I babysat you countless times, even gave you your nickname. Watched you grow up to be the humorous young man you were. I can see your smile, hear your laughter, too. We hung out, cookouts, birthdays, sports events, Las Vegas, too. You sure could bowl a mean game or two. Sometimes we partied a little wild. . . beautiful ladies at your beck and call. Our motto was, "I only have one life to live," "I wanna live it now." Not realizing how precious time and life really was and is. Our breath maker and Creator had and has a plan for you and I. The plan for you was so much shorter than mine. I'll question it not. You brought so much joy, to all of us who loved you. You respected Mom and Dad. Your memory, we'll sure treasure forever more. And now that your breath maker and Creator has called you home, No more pain nor weary body. I can see you smiling that radiant smile, I can hear your laughter, Your happiness so much more than you could ever imagine. I miss you, I miss hearing your voice. My heart is heavy with sadness. You weren't just my nephew, you were my best friend and son too. You said that I was the greatest in the world, but no. . . you were the greatest nephew in all the world and I loved you and love you so. . . Rest in peace. . . Your Aunt, A.T.

## Job Announcements

**Position:** Secretary  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Sept. 12, 2000  
**Location:** Brtn. Family Services  
**Salary:** \$8 per hour w/benefits  
**Description:** Proficient in Windows, typing 40 wpm, excellent telephone manner and secretarial skills required. Must be organized with communication and interpersonal skills. High school diploma or GED and Florida Driver's License required.

**Position:** Dentist  
**Open Date:** Aug. 8, 2000  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Brtn. Health/Dental Dept.  
**Salary:** Negotiable, w/benefits  
**Description:** Provide preventive, rehabilitative and community dental services in a clinic setting.

**Position:** Companion Care Coordinator  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Sept. 12, 2000  
**Location:** Brtn. Family Services  
**Salary:** Negotiable, w/benefits  
**Description:** Master's degree or Bachelors Degree in gerontology, social work, or human services required. Will work in Big Cypress and in Brighton. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Proficient in Windows especially in Word and Lotus 123. Must be organized with excellent communication and interpersonal skills with good attendance and work habits. Florida Driver's License required.

**Position:** Tribal Counselor  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Sept. 12, 2000  
**Location:** Brtn. Family Services  
**Salary:** \$20,372 w/benefits  
**Description:** Strong knowledge of Seminole Culture and ability to speak Creek or Miccosukee and English fluently required. Must be organized with excellent written, communication and interpersonal skills with good attendance and work habits. Desired to work with the community and advocate for their needs necessary. Must be able, at times, to transport clients to services. High school diploma or GED and Florida Driver's License required.

**Position:** VE Teacher  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** B.C. Ahfachkee School  
**Salary:** Negotiable w/benefits  
**Description:** FL and varying exceptionalities certified, BA degree, classroom and teaching planning skills required.

**Position:** Fine Arts Teacher  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** B.C. Ahfachkee School  
**Salary:** Negotiable w/benefits  
**Description:** FL and varying exceptionalities certified, BA degree, classroom and teaching planning skills required.

**Position:** Counselor/Addictions  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Sept. 12, 2000  
**Location:** Big Cypress Health Dept.  
**Salary:** Negotiable w/benefits  
**Description:** Master's degree in related field or BA/BS with 3 years experience or HS/GED with 5 years experience preferred. Certified Additions Professional required. Will work 3 days in Big Cypress and 2 days in Immokalee. Proficient in Windows especially in Word and Lotus 123. Must be organized with excellent communication and interpersonal skills with good attendance and work habits. Florida Driver's License required.

**Position:** Companion Care Coordinator  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Sept. 12, 2000  
**Location:** B.C. Family Services  
**Salary:** Negotiable, w/benefits  
**Description:** Master's degree or Bachelors Degree in gerontology, social work, or human services required. Will work in Big Cypress and in Brighton. Must be willing to work flexible hours. Proficient in Windows especially in Word and Lotus 123. Must be organized with excellent communication and interpersonal skills with good attendance and work habits. Florida Driver's License required.

**Position:** Instructional Aide  
**Open Date:** Aug. 8, 2000  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** B.C. Ahfachkee School  
**Salary:** \$9 per hour, w/benefits  
**Description:** HS diploma/ GED required. Assist teacher with classroom activities and paperwork.

**Position:** Counselor/Addictions  
**Open Date:** Aug. 30, 2000  
**Close Date:** Sept. 12, 2000  
**Location:** Immokalee Health Dept.  
**Salary:** Negotiable w/benefits  
**Description:** Master's degree in related field or BA/BS with 3 years experience or HS/GED with 5 years experience preferred. Certified Additions Professional required. Will work 3 days in Big Cypress and 2 days in Immokalee. Proficient in Windows especially in Word and Lotus 123. Must be organized with excellent communication and interpersonal skills with good attendance and work habits. Florida Driver's License required.

**Position:** Alligator/Reptile Handler  
**Open Date:** Aug. 8, 2000  
**Close Date:** Until Filled  
**Location:** Hlwd. Okalee Indian Village  
**Salary:** \$8 per hour, no benefits  
**Description:** 3 needed 2 full-time positions and 1 part time position. Work days are Wednesday-Sunday, Wednesday-Saturday work hours are from 8:00AM - 5:00PM, Sunday hours are 10:00AM - 5:00PM. Full-time and part-time positions available.

## Notices

**The Morongo Band of Mission Indians 10th Annual Pow Wow** — Sept. 22, 23 & 24, 2000. For more information please call 1-800-252-4499 ext. 3613.

**26th Annual North American Indian Alliance Pow Wow at the Civic Center** — Butte, MT, Sept. 15-16, 2000. For more information please call (406) 782-046.

**Last Chance Community Pow Wow** — at the Helena Civic Center in Helena, MT on Sept. 22-24, 2000. For more information please call (406) 442-9267.

**7th Annual Hart of the West Pow Wow** — William S. Hart Park, 24151 N. San Fernando Rd., Newhall, CA. For more information please call (661) 255-9295.

**Council and Board Roles/Responsibilities** — Reno, Nev. on Sept. 26-28, 2000. Bill Helmich Associates (www.billhelmichassociates.com) For more information please call (505) 281-9844, Fax (505) 281-0790.

**8th Annual EPA Tribal Conference** — Oct. 25-27, 2000 in San Francisco. Contact: Tim Wilhite, 415-744-1486 or Greg Phillips, (415) 744-1537.

**Expo 2000; Leadership for a New Century** — Oct. 31-Nov. The

United Nations and Eastern Tribes, Inc. (USET) will meet in Verona, N.Y. The Expo is intended to help members and others showcase goods and services to attendees. Contact: Tyler McGhee, USET, (615) 872-7900.

**22nd Annual National Conference** — Nov. 9-12. The American Indian Science Engineering Society will hold in Portland, Oregon. Contact: AISES, (505) 765-1052 or visit the web site: <http://www.aises.org>.

**Annual Meeting for its 57th Session** — Nov. 12-17. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will be held in St. Paul, Minn. Contact NCAI at (202) 466-7767.

## Deadlines

### Seminole Tribune

September 29 Issue • Deadline September 15  
October 20 Issue • Deadline October 6  
November 3 Issue • Deadline October 27

## Thank You

**To All the Parents of the Princess Pageant Contestants,**

As a committee member and a long time employee of the Tribe, I want to tell all of you what a pleasure it was to assist your daughters with the Princess Pageant. Each and every young lady is an asset to the Tribe and all of you can be proud of them.

It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of that very special evening and although I hope to tell all of you individually, I wanted to share with everyone who reads the paper what a thrill it was to know that The Seminole Tribe of Florida has such lovely young ladies representing their tribe and their families.

Sincerely,

**Maureen J. Vass**

**With Our Thanks we, the family of Gilbert (Gibby) Bowers**, would like to express our many thanks to all of you who supported us during the loss of our son and brother. We also would like to thank all of the tribal officials for their support, and especially to Gloria Wilson and Virginia Osceola, for organizing a group to prepare food for the family and friends.

It was people like you, the tribal members, the employees, the friends, who came far and near that meant so much to us. We will always cherish your support. Special thanks to Moses Jumper Jr., Moses Osceola, and Phil Homeratha for the service.

With Our Thanks,

**Eugene, Mary, and Philmon Bowers**





Memphis Childrens Hospital



Chief with Will Hill and Janine at Nashville's Park Avenue Elementary.



Tower Records in Nashville

# ON TOUR

## Chief Jim Billie: Nashville, Memphis, Tunica



BROKEN SPOKE ALL STARS: (L-R) John McEuen, Bob Taylor, Jimmie Fadden, Raiford Starke, Vassar Clements, Chief Billie, Dave Shelley, Robert Parker.

**NASHVILLE** — It all began around the fire in the Chief's old Big Cypress camp. Tradin' licks, strummin' 'gi-tars and settin' rhymes to the ends of lines. That's where Big Alligator, Sawgrass Flower, Try and Try Again, Bashful Star and the Chief Jim Billie's catalogue of songs, stories, lies and legends all began. Now, it's all for sale in some of the country's largest record outlets.

The Chief and sidekick Raiford Starke appeared in concert at the giant Tower Records store in the Opryland Mall recently, to celebrate Tower's distribution of his last two albums nationwide. In joining the growing American Indian music movement nationwide, Tower has now established a "Native American Section," next to the "New Age" area of its stores. "It's amazing to think people can get your music so far away from the swamp," said the Chief, who even has his own record "rack" card.

The Chief and Starke also performed last month at the Fort Lauderdale Peaches record store, which also will carry both of his SOAR (Sound of America Records) CDs "Alligator Tales" and "Seminole Fire."

While in Nashville, Chief Billie and band performed at Nashville's Park Avenue Elementary School for several hundred small children, teachers and staff. Appearing with him were Will and Janine, Seminole Nation of Oklahoma storytellers/actors who enthralled the little ones with their expressive renditions of Seminole legends.

After a real Music Row recording industry "party" in the Chief's shop at the lobby of the ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Artists and Performers) building, the stage was set for a



Finger Show At Fitzgerald's Casino.

stunning night of entertainment at Nashville's famed Broken Spoke Café. It began with a Jim Bickerstaff-produced wide world webcast of the Chief and the band – live — and ended with several famous friends taking the stage for an impromptu jam.

Fiddling legend Vassar Clements played a few songs with the Chief and band, who were later joined by Nitty Gritty Dirt Band originals John McEuen and Jimmie Fadden. Later, in a rare reunion of Dirt banders, lead singer Jeff Hanna took the stage and the group brought the packed house to its feet with a familiar rendition of their hit song "Mr. Bojangles." Raiford Starke finished the night with his swamp blues, calling former Hollywood resident and country singer Lucy Bowers to the stage for a rousing number.

Then it was on to Memphis, Tenn. for a touching performance in the lobby of Lebonheur Childrens Hospital. Chief Billie and Starke departed from their usual repertoire to sing "Old McDonald's Farm" and other singalongs for seriously ill children, their parents and grateful hospital staff. Gifts were given to each child, including the Seminole Colors coloring book produced by Anthropology/Genealogy Director Pat Wickman.

A much-ballyhooed one-night Chief Jim Billie show at Fitzgerald's Casino in Tunica ended this tour. The nearly two-hour show to a packed house of 800, included stories and legends (acted out by Will and Janine) as well as all the Chief's signature music. Casino owner Phil Griffin even took the band to perform "Cotton Fields At Home" with the band.

— Story and photos by Peter B. Gallagher



Vassar Clements and Chief Jim Billie join Nitty Gritty Dirt Band reunion.

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Archaeologists use small tools to excavate canoes.



Ray McGee gets the "point."



State archaeologist Melissa Memory photographs "intersection" dug by logger at Newnan's Lake



# The SEMINOLE TRIBUNE

*Special Edition* September 8, 2000

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## Federal Protection Sought For Newnan's Lake

## State Knew, Permitted Damage To Indian Relics



Seminole Chairman James Billie inspects one of 87 canoe sites on Newnan's Lake; Seminoles called the lake *Pith-la-choc-co* - place of long boats.

**By Charles Flowers**  
**NEWNAN'S LAKE** — At least seven of 87 prehistoric canoes found in the drought-exposed bed of this historic lake east of Gainesville were destroyed during a logging operation permitted by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Seminole Tribune has learned. The canoe find, which may only be partial, represents the largest cache of prehistoric

Indian canoes ever found in North America.

A month-long investigation which included a fly-in by Seminole Chairman James Billie revealed that most of the damage was done after the logging operation was halted in early July, but allowed to resume after assurances from the logger that his heavy equipment would stay away from restricted areas and that environmental damage would be

kept to a minimum.

Enforcement — not damage — was kept to a minimum. The logger, L.C. "Chuck" Pinson of Santa Rosa Beach, was given a mostly free hand by DEP. Only when the complaints of environmental and archaeological damage reached a crescendo — and the Alachua County Sheriff arrived on the scene — did any state agency move to investigate. Officers from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) took over when the DEP failed to adequately respond (vacation time had depleted the staff). Though clearly uncomfortable looking into DEP's business, FWC brought a halt to the logging after an examination of Pinson's permit revealed he had failed to stop working and notify the state about the archaeological artifacts (as his permit required). Officials from the state Division of Historical Resources (DHR) were also called in after the fact.

"We probably had a snafu regarding our degree of communication with the other state agencies," admitted Gordon Roberts, head of the compliance section of DEP, and the state's leading expert on deadhead logging (for a fuller explanation of deadhead logging, see related article.)

Even when notified of the conflict, the permitting agency — DEP — and the agency charged with protecting Florida's archaeological treasure — DHR — allowed it to continue, causing most of the damage to the submerged "fleet" of canoes. When the state archaeologist on site complained about the damage, she was ordered by her boss at the Bureau of Archaeological Research to leave, to avoid "antagonizing" logger Pinson.

The logging began without any public notice. There was no notice to residents; affected state agencies including DHR and FWC, figured they had been left out, too. One notice of permit issuance, which afforded 14 days to object, was dated weeks after the logging operation had already commenced, and a road bulldozed around Newnan's Lake. The St. John's Water Management District, which owns 372-acre Gum Root Swamp

Conservation Area adjacent to the greatest concentration of canoes, was also off the very short RSVP list for the project.

"This all was going to take place on state land," Roberts said. "There was no need for notice. There was no interested parties other than the state. It was nobody's public interest except the state's."

Environmental leaders who spoke at the April 25 Cabinet meet-

See RELICS, page 2



Rafting logs on the Blackwater River, circa 1900.

## What Exactly Is Deadhead Logging?

**By Colin Kenny**

"Deadhead logging" is the recovery of submerged logs (out of rivers and lakes) that were previously cut by man years ago. The submerged logs are referred to as "deadheads," "pre-cut timber" or "sinkers."

During Colonial times, there were an estimated 70 to 90 million acres of virgin long leaf pine forest covering the coastal plains from southeastern Virginia to Florida and stretching across to eastern Texas. These trees were valued by builders for their long, straight trunks, dense wood, attractive grain, and resistance to rot, decay and insects. Many famous landmarks — Grand Central Station and the original Yankee Stadium in New York, for example — used wood from Florida's first forest.

By the late 1800s, a huge demand for wood inspired by the post Civil War boom economy, led to heavy harvesting of a seemingly unlimited supply of long leaf pine and bald cypress (also called tidewater red cypress) trees. Logging operations were prevalent around the rivers and swamplands of North Florida at this time and shoreline sawmills employed thousands of workers.

Typically, trees would be cut, de-branched and hauled either by oxen or mule teams or by a temporarily laid railroad to a nearby waterway. There, the logs themselves would be assembled into very long, makeshift rafts which would be floated to a shoreline sawmill where they would be processed into lumber. Oldtimers in Florida remember log rafts more than 25 miles long floating in the upper St. John's River.

An estimated 10 percent of these logs would end up being "sinkers" i.e. dense, heartwood-filled logs that broke loose during river transport and sank to the river-bottom never to be retrieved by the original timber companies. There were also logs that were deliberately stored underwater near the lumber camps to keep them free of rot until they could be sawed or transported. By the 1930s, heavy timber harvesting had nearly

See LOGGING, page 5

## Dale Crider: Logging Crisis Brought It All Back Home



Dale Crider, who has lived on the shore of Newnan's Lake for more than 30 years, holds ancient canoe paddle; Crider's complaints brought harassment and accusations toward him.

*Under the Southern Bald eagle,  
With searching, sobering eyes  
Some folks stand for the challenge at hand  
And a wilderness tries to survive.  
— Dale Crider*

**By Charles Flowers**

**ANHINGA ROOST** — He has a lank about him, a cant to his lean body, an expression

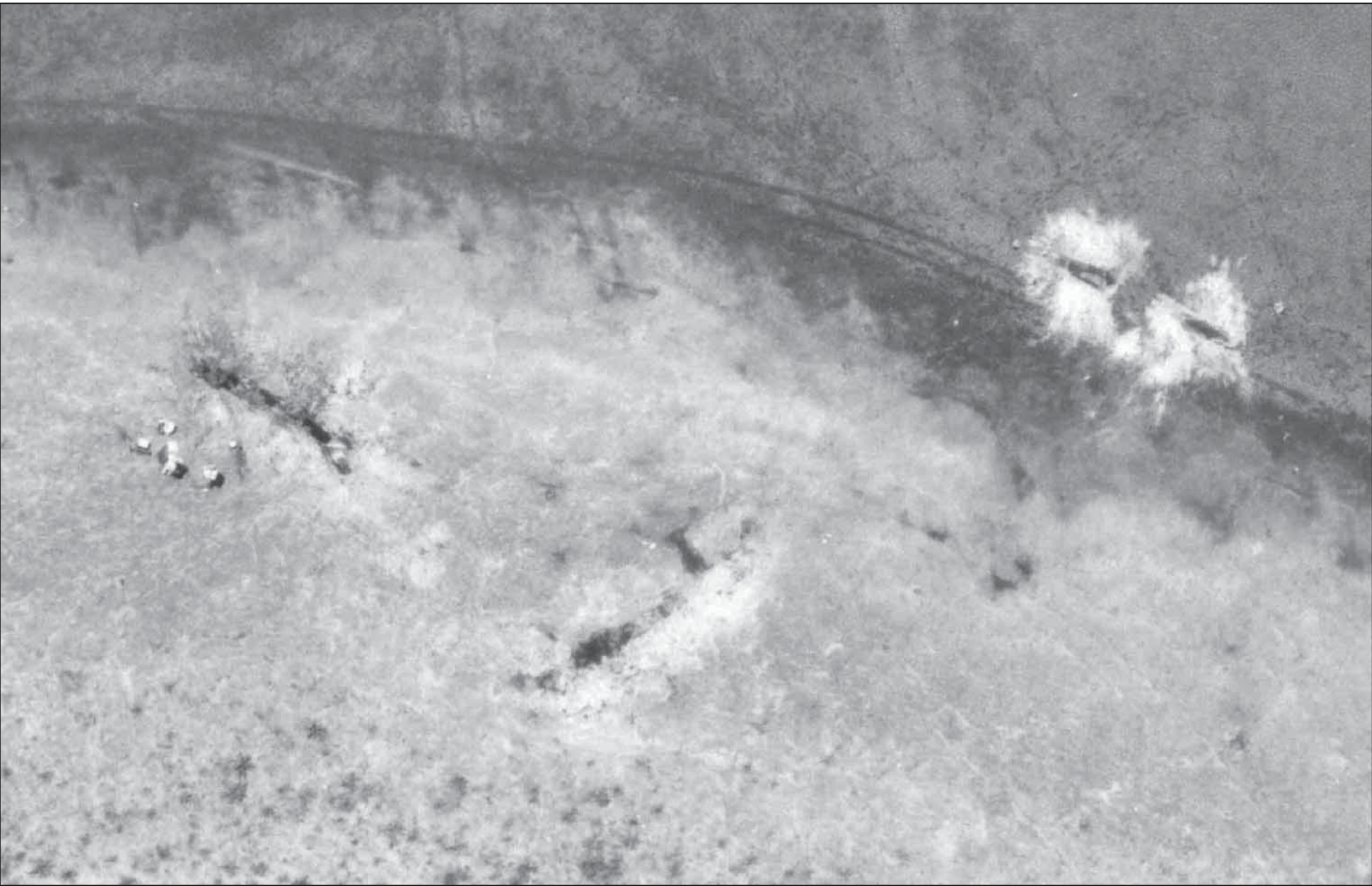
in his language and a set to his jaw that reminds you of a Kentuckian. And that image does not fade when you learn — as you do within moments of meeting this angular man or hearing one of his songs — that he is happiest in nature. He recalls another famous Kentuckian, Daniel Boone, only without the rifle. Crider, who was born in the hills of Carlisle County 60 years ago

See CRIDER, page 3



Outline of prehistoric canoe with archaeological marker.





This Division of Historical Resources aerial photograph shows two canoes already uncovered for mapping (bottom and middle). At the top of the image a canoe is being excavated, and you can pick out the people in a group just northwest of the long, dark, linear canoe shape. A little enlargement will show an ice chest near the people, for scale.

## Relics

Continued from page 1

ing where the Governor and Cabinet lifted the moratorium on deadhead logging, beg to differ. “It’s required by law,” said Florida Wildlife Federation president Manley Fuller. “Someone should be skewered over this.”

Steve Everett, a high school teacher whose students first found the canoes, is certain all the affected agencies knew “through the grapevine,” and chose to look away: “The people in those agencies are not dopes, they read the paper. They all know what’s going on.”

Lawyers within DEP said notifying the public – even in the seldom-seen Florida Administrative Code – was “discretionary, not mandatory.” However, the statute they based that determination on seemed tailor-made for the opposite conclusion.

The obscure statute, found under Exceptions to the Uniform Rules of Procedure (62-110) states that “the Department (DEP) shall require applicants to publish an intent to issue (permits) for . . . any . . . project that the Department finds is reasonably expected to result in a heightened public concern or likelihood of a request for administrative proceedings because of its size, potential effect on the environment or natural resources, controversial nature, or location.”

After reading about the notice concerns, Phil Coram, chief of Submerged Lands and Administrative Resources at DEP, faxed the *Tribune* letters he said had been sent to officials at DHR and FWC in April, before the logging began. Ironically, although it did name Newnan’s Lake, the attached permit application said nothing about a bulldozer and other heavy equipment pulling logs from the lake bed. No matter. FWC could not find the letter. DHR found the letter, addressed to a former employee. Still, officials there admitted that they had not responded initially.

“What it describes is a very different retrieval process,” noted Jan Snyder Matthews of DHR. “It would not have raised concerns if we had seen it.”

Whether notice was properly given or not,



Canoe destroyed by logger in treeline road west of mill site.

the concerns over deadhead logging on Newnan’s Lake arising from the DHR and FWC – along with the Seminole Tribe and private citizens – led Gov. Jeb Bush to halt deadhead logging on lakes until the Cabinet can meet in October to consider the issue. “The governor cannot overturn a Cabinet decision,” said DEP ombudsman Benji Brumberg. “But he can ask the DEP not to allow deadhead logging in lakes because the (April 25) Cabinet decision never mentioned deadhead logging on lakes.”

Bush aide Jose Boscan said that DEP is preparing a report on the Newnan’s Lake problem for the Cabinet. In the meantime, Coram said, no logging

will be allowed on any Florida lake.

Pinson’s deadhead logging permit was one of 22 issued in North Florida after the DEP held a series of meetings and technical studies to limit past abuses. However, the *Tribune* found the agency spent more time justifying the program than policing it. There were more man-hours spent attending meetings to draft the new rules for deadhead logging than efforts made to ensure those rules were followed.

An inspector hired by DEP to monitor Pinson’s operation reported no irregularities after he came on board in late June. The inspector, Steve Schaper, said he made one visit to inform Pinson that the old mill site was an archaeological site. Evidence shows that the logger had already sheared posts from that site during the bulldozing of a road to remove the logs a month earlier. Schaper referred other questionable no-calls – cutting a log that had been overgrown by two cypress trees, pulling two of three logs from a log bridge over an upland stream, for example – to Tom Frick, who did the pre-assessment and may have told Pinson it was OK. Frick did not return calls for comment.

On Aug. 28, Schaper, Frick and Russel Frydenborg of DEP made a tour of Newnan’s Lake for a “post-deadhead assessment.” They were joined by lake resident Dale Crider (see related story.)

Their two-page report had the tone of a whitewash. It read more as a response to criticism by Crider and this newspaper than it did an objective assessment of damage caused. There was “no evidence of gross environmental damage.” A rookery “did not appear to suffer damage from logging activities, although birds were not currently using the area, probably due to lack of water.”

“We found three areas where logs had been removed from the edge of the forested wetland, clearly against (Frick’s) instructions during the pre-recovery assessment,” the report stated. “Although the permittee was not seen doing this, it is reasonable that he did, as only he had the heavy equipment to do so.”

Although DEP officials were in telephone and e-mail contact with the logger, there is no evidence that they asked Pinson about this, or the four logs they noted were removed “without permission” from the mouth of Hatchett Creek. The inspectors termed these “minor infractions” of the permit.

Regarding the canoes, they had this to say: “On foot, we inspected the archaeological area where the dugout canoes were discovered. Although not archeologists, we saw no evidence that these artifacts had been damaged, and Mr. Schaper confirmed that the permittee avoided this area after it was found.”

Pinson also stands accused of taking logging artifacts from the lake site, damaging the sensitive environment – major parts of which are wildlife sanctuaries – and hiring an off-duty FWC officer to to work for and – some infer – to run interference for him.

It is known that in Pinson’s first encounter

with archaeology teacher Everett, off duty FWC officer Jim Sullivan was present and introduced to Everett as “Officer Sullivan.”

“He was in plain clothes, but he was wear-

has not seen the FWC report.

The state archaeologists, along with retired state biologist and environmental educator Crider, who lives on the lake and who had criticized the log-

ging operation because of harm to birds and other wildlife, breathed a sigh of relief. That was short-lived.

“I thought from the very beginning that this was such an ill-conceived thing that not only myself but other people would realize it,” Crider, 60, said. “But then when I realized that the wildlife officer was working to kind of run public relations for (Pinson), I thought to myself, ‘Maybe this thing is going to last a little longer than I thought.’”

Pinson returned to the site in early July with the same equipment and removed most of the deadhead logs. More submerged canoes were damaged. Five more canoes were crushed by the logging operation, according to archaeologists on site, after Pinson and DEP had promised to avoid them.

“We wanted to find as many canoes as we could, to map their locations to record all that and put them back where they were,” said a sheepish State Archaeologist

ing a badge and gun,” said Everett.

“He was running interference for Pinson,” says Crider. “Smart move.”

The FWC is conducting an internal investigation to determine if Sullivan, should be disciplined for moonlighting as a logger for Pinson. Because it is internal, the FWC investigation of Sullivan is closed to the press.

The *Tribune* was able to obtain copies of Pinson’s DEP permit, and the FWC’s report of investigation, which halted Pinson’s operation for three weeks beginning June 16. The reason given: “disruption of an archaeological site.” At that time, two of the canoes were reported damaged. Coram said he

Jim Miller, explaining his decision to allow Pinson to return. “It was my opinion that we knew enough about the canoes so that activity (the logging) could continue without destroying the canoes. . . In hindsight, I guess we made a mistake.”

Miller said he based the decision in part on aerial photos which showed Pinson was dragging logs from the lake to the shore from one location. He said he believed that the logger had done all the damage to archaeological sites that he was likely to do, so he signed off to let the logging continue. But Miller continued to get disturbing reports from the field.

See RELICS, page 4

## 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 children 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.



# Crider

Continued from page 1

but has lived most of his life in Florida on this lake the Indians called Pithlachocco, captures images of wildlife in words, and puts them out in song.

He urges other people to fight – for better land-use plans, for the Everglades, for eagles and ospreys, and truer understanding of Seminole Indians. He has stood on Alligator Alley in a Seminole jacket with his guitar and a tape of songs he recorded about the ‘Glades.’ But he never knew the battle would come roaring right outside his window. And that he would be asked to make a stand.

“It was hard to take,” Crider says from his hand-built, two-story house overlooking the lake. “Because of all the years that I’ve been considered a protector of the natural Florida, I’ve never really had anything close to home I had to protect. . . I lived here for 36 years without ever having anyone come in. And in a matter of a month’s time, I’ve got all kinds of law enforcement, and press and bulldozers and log skidders and forklifts and f---n’ people right and left, and four-by-four this and three-wheeler that and airboats out there snaking logs in front of my house. And this hit me all in the month of June with my mother [near death]. And it really rattled me badly. That I could have this little privacy interrupted, and have it be the damn state, and it even be the agency partially that I worked for all these many years.”

The very ground he had lived on for most of his life would quake before it was over. He would learn that the title to the land he lived and paid taxes on, its status as a nature sanctuary, his decades of service as a biologist with the old Game and Freshwater Fish Commission – all would be called into question.

In May, when Florida Wildlife Federation president Manley Fuller called DEP compliance officer Gordon Roberts about complaints of environmental damage from the logging at Newnan’s Lake, “the first words out of Roberts’ mouth

was Crider.”

A *Seminole Tribune* investigator got the same response from Russel Frydenborg, who directed the state’s technical advisory committee on deadhead logging. Reports to his Tallahassee office said nothing untoward about logger Chuck Pinson’s activities on Newnan’s Lake.

“The only thing I heard about in this office was a guy named Dale Crider who was illegally removing logs from state property,” Frydenborg said.

Many of the complaints came from the logger who held the permit, L.C. “Chuck” Pinson of Santa Rosa Beach. Pinson referred to the permit as “God in my back pocket,” and flattened Crider’s “no trespassing” sign en route to the logs. As late as June 16, Pinson was complaining to FWCC investigator Chip Bradshaw about Crider.

“There were four cants (squared off timbers left over from a milling operation) and I found four logs laying in the weeds that had been dragged up in front of his (Crider’s) house,” Pinson said in a taped statement. “I call it the Dale Crider Boulevard.”

Sure, Crider freely admitted, he had sawed some logs over the period he lived on the lake, pulled a few from the lake bed in front of his house before the state claimed jurisdiction over all submerged “sovereign” lands in Florida with a trickle of water running through, and got a court to affirm that claim in 1988. But that didn’t make Crider a logger, any more than a turtle flipping off a log is Greg Louganis.

However, laying claim to the land that he had paid taxes on, and claim to the logs that lay on that bottom land and provided roosts for anhingas and turtles, raised suspicion of Crider in some quarters.

“It is hard to sink my teeth into

what his objections are when I think I know what his objective is,” said Maj. Lawrence Rossignol, of the Lake City office of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC).

Also, Crider was reluctant to attach his name to a complaint. It was not until Aug. 3 that Crider filed a formal, itemized complaint to Attorney General Bob Butterworth. By then, the damage to the canoes had been done.

Fish in 1996 to continue his life as an environmental preacher and singer for a wild Florida, “a former employee who was taking logs.”

Not everyone is buying this characterization of the soft-spoken bachelor who also harvests fennel grass to make a foamy green drink he says is the answer to what ails you. Right, they say sarcastically. Dale was the problem, not a logger who had moved earth to drag logs from a

the St. John’s Water Management District who worked with the students from Eastside High School who discovered many of the canoes. “He understands and appreciates the appropriate use of resources, instead of the abuse of resources. And that’s the point here.”

Still, the criticism stung Crider who turned 60 as his mother lay dying in Bardwell, Ky. He left to be with her after he learned the logging operation was suspended in early July. He said he thought he and the archaeologists had won, that Pinson’s permit had been pulled, so it was safe to leave. When she passed away in early August, he was a man whose world had been shattered.

His mistake? Trusting the state he had worked for, using his energy to make many arguments in hopes that one might stick, instead of what now seems obvious: seeking an injunction to stop the logging. Could he have found a fair-minded judge to decide whether it was OK for a state agency to give carte blanche to a man in a bulldozer to cut a swath through what was emerging as possibly the most significant archaeological find in Florida? In hindsight, the chances look better than the route he took.

Crider thought he was negotiating with old friends. Instead, he was fighting an amoeba with God in its pocket. The amoeba was a system with so many cells it didn’t know the truth from a pile of logs. God was a permit from the DEP.

Now he hears that his nemesis, logger Chuck Pinson, has a new proposal to come back to Newnan’s Lake. Pinson says he wants to work with state archaeologists to get 100 logs he left behind.

“I think it’s ridiculous,” Crider says from his Roost. “I can’t imagine that the state would let him do it.” But, he admits, “I was wrong before.”



Crider harvests grain for energy drink: “That I could have this little privacy interruption and have it be the damn state. . .” Crider lives near this part of Newnan’s Lake visible in the background.

Capt. John Moran, of FWC, who was called to Newnan’s Lake to investigate other complaints against Pinson, said he had three ongoing investigations. One was Pinson. Two was his own off-duty employee, Jim Sullivan, who was allegedly working for the logger. The third was Crider, who had retired from Game &

lake over thousand-year-old artifacts, scarring cypress trees and scaring away ospreys in the process.

“I think if there’s anyone on or near the lake that’s concerned with the resources of that lake, it’s Dale. I have faith in his sincerity,” said Dan Hayes, an environmental education specialist with

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# Relics

Continued from page 2

“It would seem as though Mr. Pinson was finished, and then he would do more,” Miller said. Still, there was a more basic reason Miller and the DHR did not take a stronger tack: Pinson had what he called “God in my back pocket” – a permit signed by the DEP.

Pinson pleaded innocent: “The evil destruction of deadhead loggers just doesn’t exist,” he told the *Tribune*. “I walked around feeling like I had arrows stuck in my rib cage. I was accused of several things that just didn’t happen.” He declined to specify which accusations were false.

Still, Miller said, “We never believed that our authority extended to turning over a permitting decision by DEP. I assumed that they (the canoe sites) were sufficiently marked, and that he (Pinson) would try to avoid them. I never anticipated that we

would find so many more canoes, and that more damage would be done after he resumed logging. It’s time to have a serious discussion with DEP.”

One topic for that discussion: How could the octopus-like DEP, which employs its own enforcement arm, refer complainants to other law enforcement? That led to the FWC investigation, after a preliminary response by Alachua Sheriff’s deputies. Their presence also rankled Pinson.

“There were deputies out there I assume to arrest me and a photographer to take my picture looking sad,” Pinson said, acidly. No arrests took place, instead complaints were referred to the FWC, whose employee was working for the logger. That relationship ceased, but the logging continued, with the DEP’s apparent blessing.

## ‘Comedy of Errors’

Six weeks after the FWC turned over its report to the DEP, which included sworn statements from two eyewitnesses to the archaeological damage, the named DEP officer, John Tietjen, could not even locate it, much less show he had acted on any information contained within it.

“We were an agency caught in the middle between two other agencies, neither one of which had done their homework,” said Capt. John Moran at the FWC office in Lake City. Moran blamed archaeologist Melissa Memory for not clearly marking the canoe sites, or enclosing the entire area where the canoes were found as one site.

“She didn’t have the site marked out well,” Moran said. Memory disagreed: “I suggested that (enclosing the site) to Chip Bradshaw. I know he was present when I tried to explain that these (canoes) were features within a site rather than a site itself. Sites are defined in the statutes.” She was ordered to stay away from Pinson by one of her bosses, Ryan Wheeler, who wrote the July 5 letter from DHR giving Pinson the go-ahead to continue logging.

State Archaeologist Miller says Wheeler was acting on Miller’s command when he told Memory – the only trained observer on site – to stay away. He offered little more than a sigh and expression of worry for Memory’s safety as a rationale for the order: “I thought it was not a decision of DHR to interfere with the logger,” even though both he and Memory knew the price-

less canoe site was at risk.

Moran also blamed the DEP for not enforcing its own permit.

“That was part of the comedy of errors,” Moran said.

was unable to extract from the northern shore. The logger said he would hire his own archaeologists and do his own assessment of potential damage.

When notified of Pinson’s plans, Gov. Jeb Bush’s office contacted DEP permitting chief Coram asking that DEP cease all permitting for deadhead logging on lakes.

According to Everett, “Pinson called me up and cussed me out for a half hour. He said he was suing us for slander. He blames us for not getting his permit. He really chewed my butt. I haven’t heard from his lawyer, though. And none of us will. He doesn’t have any case.”

Miller and Jan Snyder Matthews, director of DHR, said they intend to nominate the entire lake for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Billy L. Cypress, executive director of the Tribe’s Ah-Tha-Thi-Ki Museum, agreed to sign on.

“Clearly, this is one of those sites that has significance nationally,” Matthews said.

Chairman Billie has also asked several staff members and an environmental consultant to look into expanding the Seminoles’ involvement in wetlands and dredge-and-fill permits. Tribal liaison Stephen Bowers is preparing a resolution for the next Tribal Council meeting to establish a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer who would work with both state and federal agencies when situations like Newnan’s Lake arise.

Currently, the Tribe is included informally and occasionally. The DHR’s Miller said the state is only required to notify the Tribe when human remains are found, a loophole that almost left the largest federally-recognized tribe in Florida out of what archaeologist Memory called “the find of a lifetime” at Pithlachocco.

“Sometimes we hear from them and sometimes we don’t,” said Cypress. “They know us and how to contact us.” Besides Cypress and Bowers, Tribal Anthropologist Dr. Pat Wickman and Independent Seminole Bobby Billie have also participated in

past DHR projects.

The canoe find, and subsequent damage, may have created a closer communication between the DHR and the Tribe.

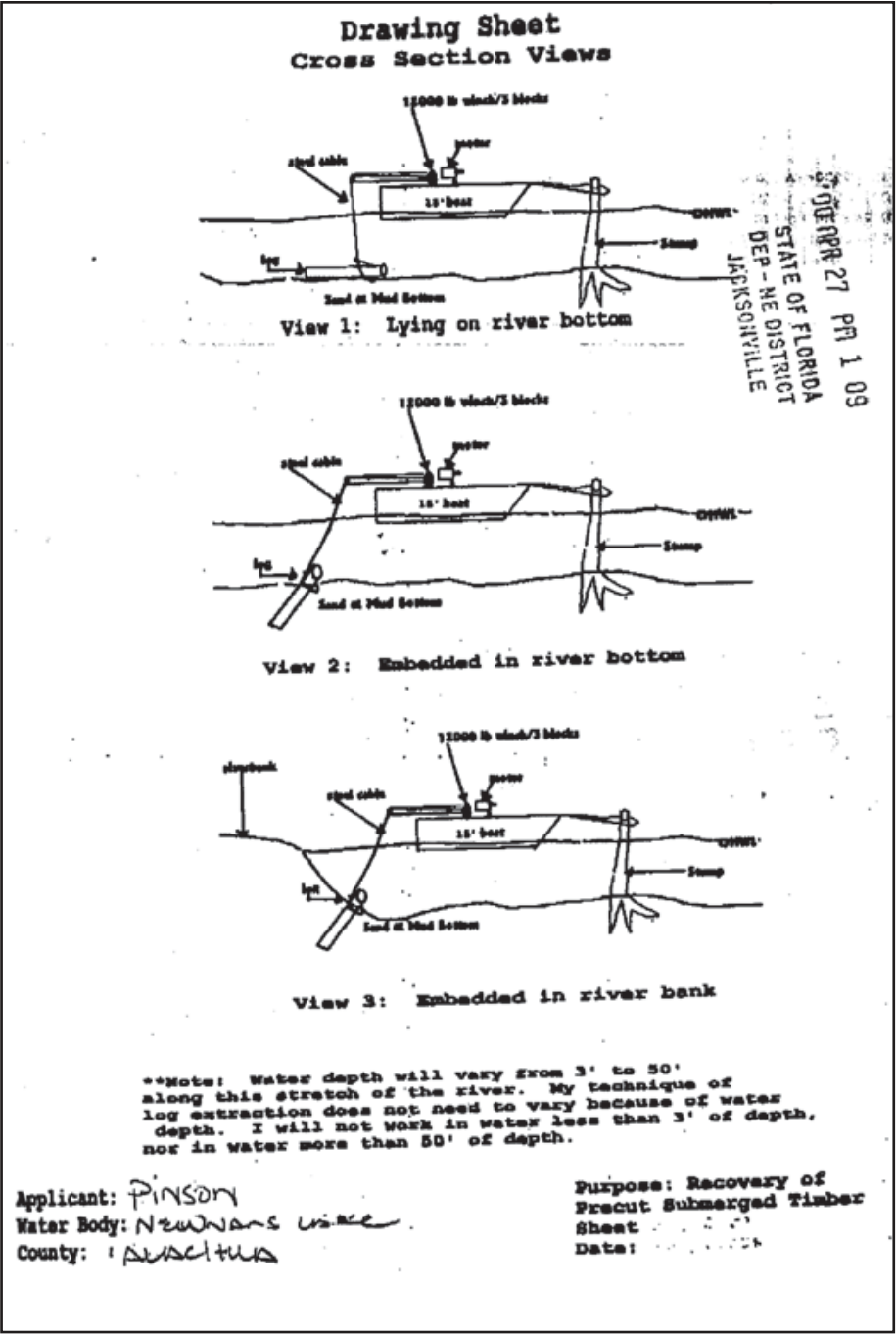
“Maybe they should be informed every time they put a shovel into the ground,” James Billie suggested. “The Indians were all over Florida and they left evidence under every rock and river.”

Inclusion on the National Register would not only protect the lake from loggers like Pinson, but could also protect all artifacts from removal. Chairman Billie also offered to pay the cost of radiocarbon dating samples taken from the recently discovered canoes. The technique is used to determine the age of carbon-based artifacts, like wooden canoes.



Chairman Billie, state archaeologist Melissa Memory and DEP Ombudsman Benji Brumberg at Newnan’s Lake canoe site.

Peter B. Gallagher



“A VERY DIFFERENT RETRIEVAL PROCESS”: Pinson’s permit application showed he planned to recover logs from a boat, not a bulldozer.

Moran’s boss at the FWC was even more pointed in his criticism.

“DEP is the responsible party,” said Maj. Lawrence Rossignol of the Lake City office. “That’s what they pay high-dollar investigators for. When they gave a permit to a man to deadhead log that lake, they were damaging that lake environment more than anyone we were writing tickets to for driving on the lake cutting doughnuts. . . I decided my people had better things to do.”

Rossignol called Pinson’s logging operation “a world-class boondoggle,” and the archaeologists who found the canoes and other artifacts “a bunch of rank-ass amateurs running around on that lake bottom.”

The operation has generated a firestorm of criticism, both inside and outside state government, prompting the Seminole Tribe to seek federal – National Register – protection for the site. The 7,427-acre lake, formerly known as Pith-la-choc-co (place of long boats) has a storied history for the Seminoles. It is near the site of an 1812 battle between Seminoles and Georgia militia-men that preceded the First Seminole War, and is noted for other archaeological finds dating back thousands of years.

On July 25, DHR’s Miller wrote a letter to DEP’s Roberts requesting that no further logging be permitted anywhere on the lake. Attorney Gen. Bob Butterworth begged out of the controversy, claiming his office lacks direct jurisdiction to investigate DEP. Crider’s “allegations of mismanagement on Newnan’s Lake” were forwarded to the Governor and Cabinet acting as Trustees of Florida’s Internal Improvement Fund. Ironically, the same day Crider filed his complaint, Pinson submitted a proposal to both DHR and DEP to return to Newnan’s Lake in order to get 100 logs he



LEFT BEHIND: These deadhead logs were left by logger Pinson: he planned to go return them but state officials said no.

Peter B. Gallagher

However, pressured by the tribe to fast track the dating, the DHR has agreed to bear the cost itself. Matthews said the canoe samples should be dated by late September.

“I’d like to know as soon as possible if those are all ancient canoes, or if some are hundreds of years newer,” said Chairman Billie. “This can all connect to our history. The Seminole Indians want to

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know everything they can about those canoes.”

### High Price For History

Pinson was the first logger the DEP authorized to take so-called “deadhead” logs this year after a temporary ban of the practice. Deadhead logs are logs that sank decades ago when the longleaf pine forests of the Southeastern United States were chopped down for lumber. (See page 6 story.) Though lakes were never considered by the panel which created new regulations and policy for deadhead logging, the permit covered Newnan’s Lake, a shallow, kidney-shaped water body.

The lake was named for an Indian fighter from Georgia – Col. Dan Newnan, who in 1812 lost a battle against the Seminoles in North Florida. Though long dead, Newnan is the target of a campaign to rename the lake Pithlachocco (see related story). The not-so-hidden agenda of the re-naming effort is to bring attention to the lake so that it may be purchased by the state under the CARL (Conservation And Recreation Lands) program.

Pinson paid a \$6,000 fee for two permits – a one year statewide deadhead logging licence and a site specific \$500 dredge-and-fill permit for Newman’s Lake. Loggers must pay for a new dredge-and-fill permit at each site. The permits were signed May 26, one month after Gov. Jeb Bush and the Cabinet unanimously agreed to lift the four-month moratorium on logging. Pinson had filed his application in November of 1999. (see related Timeline). Environmental organizations had generally capitulated, realizing that Bush wanted the ban lifted as a concession to Panhandle fishermen who complained they had been regulated out of business. Pinson, 48, who runs a profitable flooring business in the Panhandle, does not fit that profile.

The high fee was intended to encourage professional operators, and the funds raised were earmarked to hire inspectors to see that the wishes of the Governor and Cabinet – meeting as trustees of the Florida Internal Improvement Fund – were carried out in the field.



Loggers road was cut through wetlands next to osprey nest.

“It doesn’t seem to me that Mr. Pinson satisfied his permit conditions, and it doesn’t look like it complies with the trustees’ recommendations,” said Florida Wildlife Federation president Fuller, who spoke when the measure passed. (In fact, Pinson’s permit for Newman’s Lake describes a boat winching operation to remove the logs and mentions nothing about the use of bulldozers, airboats or heavy trucks.)

At the time, Fuller told Gov. Bush and the Cabinet: “These conditions must be adhered to, and we would like to see – if you have a permittee that doesn’t comply with the conditions – we would like to see strong action taken against them.”

Marianne Gengenbach of the Nature Conservancy also addressed the elected leaders with what now seems a prophetic warning: “Whether or not this kind of operation over the long term is going to cause environmental damage, even with these recommendations, is going to be contingent on enforcement. It’s going to be contingent upon oversight and making sure that these recommendations are carefully implemented.”



A deadhead “staff” cut from mature cypress trees. DEP inspectors said this should not have been allowed.

The Seminole Tribe was not notified – even when more canoes were discovered on the north shore of the lake, making the canoe find the largest of its kind in North America. (Miller and Matthews have since apologized to the Seminoles for the oversight.)

Nor, unless they asked, were residents of the lake, and others directly impacted by the logging operation.

“There’s not many people who believe that the Department of Environmental Protection with that name should be out there molesting the habitat, or doing damage,” Crider said.

“You’ve got to err on the side of safety if your name is protection.”

Crider, who worked more than 30 years as a biologist with the old Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission before retiring in 1996, was himself the target of criticism (see related article). First, because his deed showed he owned land to the middle of Newnan’s Lake. Secondly, because he admitted he had taken logs and other artifacts from the lake over the years. That, to the mind of the regulators, made him a competing logger.

“As far as I was concerned, I owned the logs on the lake bottom,” said Crider, who claims the logs he used in his house construction were removed in the early 1970s. “I had a deed that said I did. And as far as the artifacts, I would be happy to turn them over to the Seminole Tribe or anyone else who has a claim to them.”

Peter B. Gallagher



Ancient canoe bow shows hand hewn marks; the stern (not pictures) was more than 30 feet away.

Among other wildlife, turtles may suffer the worst effects of the deadhead removal. “Everyone knows turtles congregate near place to bask,” says Dr. David Auth, a prominent Gainesville herpetologist. “You remove the logs, you take that habitat away. It will reduce the population over time.” Adds Auth, “I’d hate to see what happened to turtle nests. They bury eggs on the bottom of lakes and rivers. Deadhead logging is one of the most destructive impacts to aquatic life.”

DEP’s “post assessment,” however, disagreed with Dr. Auth, one of the nation’s foremost experts on fresh water turtles. The report, authored by DEP chemists, stated: “It is unlikely that the logging activities disturbed turtle nesting in the lake to any great extent. . .”

The pressure to resume deadhead logging is spelled M-O-N-E-Y. The old growth heart pine logs fetch upwards of \$3,000 apiece, and the forests were so clear-cut they aren’t making any more. Ard places the value at \$1 to \$2 a board foot, unmilled. Others, including retired University of Florida forestry professor Jake Huffman, say the price can go much higher, from \$6 to \$11 per foot, depending on grain pattern. A board foot is one-foot square by one-inch thick. About 200 board feet can be obtained from an average sunken timber, according to the DEP’s Roberts.

Pinson himself, in an interview with FWC investigator Chip Bradshaw, said he was part of a mill operation that produced high-quality flooring. The logs from Newnan’s Lake are destined for upscale residential projects in the Panhandle with names like Rosemary Beach and WaterColor.

“If you have a way to turn it into an end product, there’s a lot more profit in it,” said the log-

Charles Flowers



DHR archaeologist say bulldozer crushed ancient pot.

resin-rich heart pine logs sank, and were too costly to retrieve. The “submerged timber,” as the state calls it, was perfectly preserved underwater, and did nothing but gain in value.

Newnan’s Lake was exceptional in that at least two lumber mills operated on the lake, so logs were floated – and sunk – on it. Historic artifacts from those lumber mills are protected, along with the Native American objects, according to Memory.

See RELICS page 8



Santa Rosa Beach logger Chuck Pinson’s bulldozer at work on Newnan’s Lake.

## Logging

Continued from page 1

depleted the old-growth long leaf pine and bald cypress.

Recent years have brought a demand for these “sinker” or “deadhead” logs by the specialty lumber industry. Preserved underwater often for more than a century, these logs are prized for their dense heartwood and fine grain, which is especially desirable for up-scale flooring, paneling, stairways, architectural moulding, furniture and cabinets.

According to George Goodwin of Goodwin Pine Co., a Micanopy, Fla.-based mill that processes recovered river logs into specialty lumber, much of the old-growth long leaf pine harvested in those days was between 150 and 400 years old, whereas the even slower growing bald cypress logs were between 1,000 and 1,200 years old. Because these slow-growth trees were not replanted by the early timber companies during the massive clear-cutting of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the pine and cypress trees that have grown since then are not mature enough to provide the heartwood that the specialty lumber industry demands. Today, nearly all heart pine and heart cypress available is either salvage lumber from old buildings or recovered by deadhead logging.

The estimated value of the pre-cut logs ranges from a wholesale price of \$1-\$2 per board foot, all the way up to \$11 per board foot for finished lumber. A board foot is one-inch thick by 12-inches square. One log can yield 200 board feet or more.

The practice of deadhead logging involves a logger or “deadheader” – often donning scuba gear – locating the old pre-cut logs on the river bottom. Once the logs are located, they are retrieved, brought to shore and transported to a lumber mill. This practice provoked concerns by the Florida Game and Fish Commission over its effect on fisheries habitat. As a result, the state of Florida officially banned deadhead logging in 1974. However, because of weak enforcement by Florida’s Department of Environmental Protection, some deadhead logging still continued illegally.

On Dec. 8, 1998, the rising demand for deadhead lumber caused the late Gov. Lawton Chiles and his Cabinet, meeting a few days before Chiles’ death, to authorize a one-year pilot program with strict guidelines to allow underwater logging to continue in Florida. There have been revisions in the regulations due to pressure from environmentalists and other groups.

Today, every river logger must pay a \$6,000 annual licensing fee, which includes a \$500 site specific dredge-and-fill permit. There are restrictions on the number of logs that can be retrieved from a river bottom on a single day. Divers cannot disturb sediment in retrieving logs. Some logs have special brands on their butt ends that denote the original owner. Those branded logs are considered lost or stolen property and must be turned over to a law enforcement agency so that the owners or rightful heirs have a chance to claim them. If they are not claimed, the authorities have a right to sell them to recover their investigative costs. Applicants must take a special one-day course to earn a “Master” deadhead logger certificate.

In spite of the regulations, there is still much controversy between those who claim that government regulated deadhead logging is environmentally safe when done properly and actually saves living trees that would otherwise be cut down. Proponents also claim that permitted logging reduces illegal and uncontrolled deadheading on Florida’s rivers and lakes. Opponents claim the practice itself is harmful, or that the state government is not doing its job to weed out the bad loggers.

That may soon be a moot point, however. According to George Goodwin, the deadheads in the Suwanee River “are pretty picked over,” and the supply may be exhausted in a year or two. Other experts, including DEP’s Gordon Roberts, feel there will still be at least 10 logging outfits operating five years from now – down from the more than 90 illegal operations Roberts estimates were pulling logs during the years when the practice was outlawed.

Either way, there soon may be no more of the pre-cut heartwoods left submerged in the entire state of Florida.









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# Relics

Continued from page 5

In fact, said Gengenbach, she searched the state’s new policy for any reference to deadheads on lakes and could find none. One difference between logging on rivers and dry lakes: vehicular access to pull-out points.

“Roads are always an impact,” said Vernon Campton, project director for the Nature Conservancy who represented four environmental groups on the technical advisory committee, “and sometimes they’re not considered.”

Access to the Newnan’s Lake logs presented some problems for Pinson. First, he had to bulldoze a road around the lake. Then, he had to yank them out with chains and heavy equipment. Finally, he had to move them to a truck to transport them to a lumber mill. There is evidence of environmental damage at every point – roads cut close to active osprey nests, timbers removed from upland areas, and cut from between cypress trees. Mature cypresses had chunks missing after being brushed with heavy equipment.

Although he agreed with the observations of the damage, Schaper, the inspector DEP hired with the permit fees to monitor Pinson’s operation and others, said it was not severe enough to flag him for it. The log cut from between the cypress trees (see photo), and the authority to remove the cants – which Memory, and fellow archaeologist Ray McGee agreed were clearly logging artifacts – would stem from the pre-assessment, which was managed by the DEP’s Tom Frick, who identified himself to Crider as a chemist. Frick referred questions to DEP ombudsman Brumberg, who has visited the site, but not with Frick. “There’s no accountability,” observed Fuller. “The one guy can always blame the other.”

Regarding Pinson’s situation, logging lobbyist Ard commented: “I’d say he’d be in a load of trouble with the archaeology.”

His permit required Pinson to suspend operations if he came upon archaeological artifacts and to notify DEP. The permit even specifies “Indian canoes” are covered by the regulations:

“If historical or archaeological artifacts, such as, but not limited to, Indian canoes, arrowheads, pottery or physical remains, are discovered at any time within the project site, the permittee shall immediately stop all activities which disturb the soil and contact [DEP],” the permit reads. Neither happened.

According to Chip Bradshaw, the FWC investigator, Pinson “thought everyone was aware of his permit and the canoes. He said they had been out there. . . he didn’t think he needed to notify anyone.” Pinson . . . he didn’t think I had to run and notify everybody that there was canoes out there. Hell, the world knew. It had been on CNN.”

Besides seven specific canoes which Memory and Miller said were “documented” as damaged during the logging operation – some crushed by the cleats of the bulldozer, some by logs dragged across marked sites, and one caught by a fork lift truck – other artifacts, including pottery, arrowheads, and what is believed to be remains of an ancient fish weir, were also disturbed by the deadhead operation. DEP’s “post assessment,” however disagrees. The report, which included no input from any trained archaeologist, concluded there was “no evidence that these artifacts had been damaged. . . .”

“We take strong exception to that conclusion,” says DHR’s Miller. “We walked around out there with DEP’s people. We showed them damaged canoes. Why didn’t that filter up the line to the guys who wrote that report?”

Although not yet dated, the dugout canoes are estimated to be 500 to 3,000 years old. Gainesville achaeologist Ray McGee, who worked with Memory and Eastside High School teacher Everett and his students on locating the canoes, said the oldest Indian canoe found in Florida dates to 4,000 B.C. That ancient craft was found near DeLeon Springs in Volusia County.

Everett said he found one clay pot dating to that era at Newnan’s Lake crushed in a track left by



Eastside High School teacher Steve Everett stands by barely submerged canoe on Newnan’s Lake; his students discovered the first canoes in early May.

Pinson’s bulldozer.

McGee said he did partial excavations of 50 canoes. Some had thwart, or raised areas in the bottom, where a boatman could brace his foot while poling. These, as well as the type of wood, may also be clues to the people who made them.

Crider has also found what he believes is a prehistoric paddle, with a blade on one end and worked to a point on the other. He believes the pointed end was used for spearing fish.

planned to return. That information could possibly result after some study is given this site. Or maybe this lake may have been one that they used a lot of dugout canoes on. When they got tired of one, they went and made another one. They had a lot of trees around the edges that could be burnt out. Most of them were upright. I’ve found a couple that were upside down.”

“Maybe lightning hit the area when there were a lot of Indians around?” says Chief Billie. “Were any bones found?”

No, report archaeologists – rising water has now covered most of the site.

The canoe sites on the north side of Newnan’s Lake join other archaeological sites on the southern end, where Indian relics from paleolithic times have been recovered for years. One arrowhead even bears the name, “Newnan’s Point,” for its distinctive shape. That’s why archaeologists want to include the whole lake on the National Register.

“We’re talking about a lot of charred wood that beach – and a lot of them are not even canoes,” disputed Pinson, whose doubts about the authenticity of the canoes were echoed by law enforcement. (This despite the fact that Pinson claims he has assisted archaeologists in his spare time, and has a keen interest in the subject.)

So why, ask state archaeologists, are loggers required by permit to make decisions about what constitutes archaeological artifacts? Roberts said loggers take a one-day “Master Deadhead Logger” class, but the DHR was not asked to provide any input on archaeology. A request by the Tribune for a list of “Master Deadhead Loggers” was not made available by presstime. “Maybe they thought archaeology instruction would put all these guys to sleep,” says Miller.

And why did state environmental organizations give deadhead loggers a free pass? The minutes of the technical advisory committee meetings, where papers presented on environmental damage of deadhead logging were brushed aside, give clues. So does the transcript of the hearing with Gov. Jeb Bush and his five-person Cabinet. It was treated as a joke, a possible new career for Attorney General Bob Butterworth when his term is up.

Both Gengenbach of the Nature Conservancy and Fuller of the Florida Wildlife Federation said at that meeting they were concerned about deadhead logging, and urged the state to monitor it closely. Both knew it was a done deal, favored by Gov. Bush, although no one has said why.

“We tried to make the best of a less than ideal policy,” Fuller told the Tribune.

Others, who were not in that loop are outraged by the reports from Newnan’s Lake. “This was unconscionable,” said Ed Dobson, a member of the board of directors of the national Sierra Club who helped organize the Florida chapter in the 1960s. “I don’t understand how this slipped by all the watchdogs.”

Steve Everett, the Eastside High School teacher whose students began finding the canoes in early May, said Pinson’s logging operation hit them hardest.

“I have spent years teaching students about respecting the world we live in and in the course of a few days this man made a mockery out of everything I ever taught,” Everett said. “Where is the integrity of the public officials that signed off on this mess? What would they have me tell my students?”



Melissa Memory locates site where pottery fragments were found.

## Whose Canoes? Theories Abound

Theories abound about the people who made and used these canoes. The canoe find is easily the largest in North America, according to Barbara Purdy, a retired University of Florida professor and the author of several books and academic papers about Indian canoes. The second largest find was only 20 canoes.

Purdy said the Newnan’s Lake canoes represent more than one-fourth of all the prehistoric canoes in North America. Prior to the find, only about 300 were known to exist. She was with McGee in early May when they identified the first of them, although the credit for the first discovery may have to go to Everett and his Eastside students.

“We found eight of them in less than a day,” Purdy said. “The average length was 16 feet.”

The million-dollar question: Are they modern Seminole canoes? Or canoes crafted by Seminole pre-Colombian ancestors? The answer is complex.

“Most of the Seminole canoes were made of cypress; 100 percent of them were cut with a stone ax,” Purdy said, authoritatively. So, if these canoes were made of pine, or cut with other tools, further study may be required to scientifically identify their makers.

Once the canoes, recognizable by their shaped ends and charred out insides, became identifiable, they started popping up like asparagus. So did the possible explanations for them.

“We possibly have an abandonment hypothesis,” said Ruhl, of the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville, where the samples are being studied. “They used canoes, made canoes as needed, and sank or abandoned the canoes when they got old. Or maybe the drift of the water caused many canoes to end up on the north shore. That’s more likely with this many canoes, especially if the date range is close.”

Or, suggests Crider, “They (the Indians) may have been killed by some encroaching army. They just left the canoes there and



Memory, McGee and Everett check canoe on edge of logging road.

# Newnan’s Lake Timeline

**6,000 – 5,000 B.C.**  
Lake formed, would be called Pithlachocco, later Newnan’s Lake.

**3,000 B.C. – 500 A.D.**  
Canoes left by Indians sank in lake, preserved by freshwater.

**1812**  
Seminoles battle Georgia militia under Col. Dan Newnan. Seminole leader King Payne dies. Newnan retreats, but leaves his name on Newnan’s Lake. Payne’s Prarie survives as legacy to Seminole presence in North Central Florida.

**Early 1900s**  
Area around the lake was logged commercially, lumber mills on lake sawed logs into boards; many logs sank to bottom.

**1952**  
Photos from this era show longleaf pine trees still growing around the lake.

**1974**  
“Deadhead” logging banned in Florida. Practice continues illegally.

**December 1998**  
Deadhead logging permitted by State of Florida .

**December 1999**  
Four-month moratorium again halts deadhead logging.

**January-April 2000**  
Worst drought in 70 years leaves Newnan’s lake bed dry.

**April 25, 2000**  
Gov. Jeb Bush and Cabinet vote unanimously to lift moratorium.

**May 8, 2000**  
First eight ancient canoes identified on northwest shore of Newnan’s Lake.

**May 26, 2000**  
Permits approved for L.C. Pinson of Santa Rosa Beach to deadhead log Newnan’s Lake.

**May 27, 2000**  
Pinson bulldozes road around lake, begins logging operation.

**May 28, 2000**  
More ancient canoes found on lake, making it the largest such find ever.

**June 15, 2000**  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) officers called to lake by archaeologists; find Pinson in violation of his permit for failing to halt logging, and notify state if archaeological objects are found. Logging is stopped for approximately three weeks.

**July 5, 2000**  
Officials from Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Department of Historical Resources (DHR)visit the site. Logging is allowed to continue. Letter written by Ryan Wheeler of DHR to Pinson gives OK.

**August 3, 2000**  
Formal complaint made to Attorney General Bob Butterworth by Dale Crider, a Newnan’s Lake resident, alleges numerous damages to lake environment, including wildlife, from deadhead logging operation; also removal of artifacts by Pinson.

**August 15, 2000**  
Seminole Chairman James Billie visits Newnan’s Lake site.

For Newnan’s Lake deadhead logging updates log on to [www.seminoletribe.com](http://www.seminoletribe.com).