

The MULLET RAPPER

WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31, 2007

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume I • Issue #35



Meet George Burton

The new aide to the local office of Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart will be visiting City Hall on **Tuesday, September 4**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

George told the *Rapper* that has lived in Naples for almost 20 years. Before becoming the Congressman's District Representative this summer, he was Director of Collier County Emergency Medical Services and then Executive Director of Children's Medical Services at Naples Healthcare Systems. He is interested in special-needs children and he got to know the Congressman while searching for funding in Washington. Since he joined the staff, he has already visited around the area.

If you can not stop in for a chat on Tuesday, you can contact him by phone at (239) 348-1620 or by email on George.Barton@mail.house.gov.

Congratulations to Billy Howell and Geneva Brown Howell who were married 50 years ago on September 1, 1957 in Chokoloskee Church of God.

BUSY WEEKEND



After our quiet summer, here is a sample of activities to keep us occupied over the Labor Day holiday.

Copeland Crusade

The Highways & Byways Ministry will hold a free Chicken BBQ with music and preaching on **Saturday, September 1**, from noon until 4:00 p.m. in Copeland Panther Park (next to the Baptist Mission). Everyone is welcome.

Labor Day "Muck-About"

See Clyde Butcher's latest photographs and enjoy live music and food over the weekend at the Big Cypress Gallery east of Ochopee. For reservations on a swamp walk, phone 695-2428 or fill in the form at www.clydebutcher.com.

Estuary Open House

Glades Realty is showing this condo complex in ECity on Sunday and Monday between noon and 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to stop in and have a look and a chat. See advertising insert for details.

Jay at Gumbo Limbo

Paintings by Plantation Island resident Dick Jay feature at Gumbo Limbo Gallery in Chokoloskee until September 15. You can visit on **Thursday to Sunday** between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and enjoy a coffee drink while you admire the art work. See Avery's article on page 9.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Camellia Street Grill will be closed for the month of September.

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe will be closed until October 1.

The Oyster House will open for the season on Friday, August 31. Hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.



CITY COUNCIL

A full City Council meeting will take place on **Tuesday, September 4**, in City Hall at 5:30 p.m. There will also be a public hearing on the budget. The agenda is on page 7.

A second public hearing on the budget will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 13 in City Hall.

SCENIC HIGHWAY

The Collier County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Board will discuss the Scenic Highway designation for part of the Tamiami Trail at the next meeting on **Friday, September 14**, at 10:00 a.m. in the County Commissioners' Chamber at Government Center in Naples.

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SEPTEMBER 2007

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
AUGUST 26	27 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	28	29 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am	30 School Early Release	31	SEPT 1 Clyde Butcher "Muck-About" see p.1 Copeland BBQ see p.1
2 Clyde Butcher "Muck-About" see p.1 Estuary Open House see p. 1	3 Labor Day Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm	4 Jim Coletta City Hall 1-4pm George Barton City Hall 3-5pm City Council Budget Hearing City Hall 5:30 pm	5 Ladies Coffee Seafood Depot 8 am	6 Great Gators School, 9:30 Lions Club Karen Cabral's Home, 7 pm	7	8 Bike Ride see p.3
9	10 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church, 7 pm	11  Fly the Flag Day	12 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am	13 Budget Hearing City Hall, 5:30 pm Open House School, 6:30 am Big Cypress see p. 3	14 MPO meeting 10 am Naples see p.1	15
16	17 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Mission, 7 pm	18 Reach Out <i>meeting</i> <i>cancelled</i>	19 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am	20 School Early Release Lions Club Seafood Depot 7 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm	21	22 Mobile Pet Vet McLeod Park 9 am to 1 pm Copeland 2 to 4 pm
23 Mobile Pet Vet McLeod Park 9 am to 1 pm Surgery Only 239-777-PETS	24 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	25 SAC meeting School, 3 pm	26 Ladies Coffee Seafood Depot 8 am	27 Storter Exhibit at HMSF see p. 9	28	● 29

THRIFT SHOP: CLOSED FOR SUMMER BREAK

FOOD PANTRY: Sat, 8:30 to 10:30 am, Community Church

MUSEUM: Tues-Fri, 9 am to 5 pm; Sat, 9 am to 4 pm

NATIONAL PARK GULF COAST VISITORS' CENTER: daily 9 am to 4 pm (boats 8:30 am to 4:00 pm)

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INFORMATION CENTER (Carnestown): daily, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm

SKATING RINK: Friday/Saturday, 7:00 - 10:00 pm

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church

SMALLWOOD STORE: daily 11 am to 5 pm

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 8/31 (9-11am) 9/4 (3-5pm) 9/5 (9-11am) 9/10 (noon-2pm) 9/13 (noon-2pm) 9/14 (9-11am)

TELEPHONE NUMBERS: Sheriff: 695-2007 Fire Dept: 695-2902 City Hall: 695-3781 Library: 695-2511

HUNTING SEASON BEGINS ... *be careful walking in the woods!!!*

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EMAIL: glenn@marco-law.com

SCHOOL NEWS

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561 website: www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg



NEW FACES IN THE NEW YEAR

The Pre-K class (photo above) still has room for children who are 4 years old so if you have a youngster who is not enrolled, please contact the school. And, see page 6 to meet their teacher Amy Wowk.

The principal Mr Bobby Jones told the *Rapper* that the total enrollment in Everglades City School is 149, up from last year. There are eight new teachers: Mark Cevallos (math), Julio DeLarosa (Social Studies & Spanish), Paul D'Agostino (Middle School), Elizabeth Ihle (Language Arts) plus the four we are featuring this week, Amy Wowk (Pre-K), Tracy Jones (2nd Grade), Patti Jones (3rd & 4th Grades), and Karen Nicholson (ESE - Exceptional Student Education).

Come to the Open House on **Thursday, September 13**. We meet at 6:30 p.m. in the Cafetorium and then visit individual classrooms.

From Savannah's Eyes

Hurray! We're back to school and it is great. There are a lot of new students and teachers that are very nice, and all of my friends are there, too. We would like to welcome all of the new students and teachers. Also, we would like all parents to join us for Open House at our School on September 13 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in all classrooms. We would also like the parents to come to our SAC* meetings (first one is September 25) and support our School so we can have the best year possible. Oh, and welcome back all last year's teachers and staff, too!

Savannah Oglesby is a 5th grade student this year at Everglades City School. She is a regular contributor to this paper.



*There will be an article about SAC in the next issue of the *Rapper*.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thurs, Aug 30: Early Release Day
- Mon, Sept 3: Labor Day holiday
- Thurs, Sept 6: Great Gators, 9:30 a.m.
- Thurs, Sept 13: Open House, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Sept 20: Early Release Day
- Tues, Sept 25: SAC, Media Center, 3:00 p.m.
- Thurs, Sept 27: Report Cards (grades 9-12)

Students bringing packed lunches from home should have the following drinks: Water, Juices, Powerade, Gatorade, Vitamin Water.

NO CARBONATED DRINKS OR POWER DRINKS such as Coke, Pepsi, Mountain Dew, Sprite, Red Bull, Vitamin Energy Drink, Monster, Sobe Dragon, or Jolt Energy Drinks. **PARENTS: Please do not send them with your students.**

Volleyball Schedule

Wed, Aug 29	Palmetto Ridge (J.V.)	Home	4:30pm
Fri, Aug 31	Seacrest (V.)	Home	5:00pm

Tues, Sept 4	Cape Coral Christian (V.)	Home	4:30pm
Thurs, Sept 6	Immokalee (V.)	Away	5:00pm
Tues, Sept 11	Florida Christian (V.)	Home	5:00pm
Mon, Sept 17	West Glades School (M.S)	Home	5:00pm
Wed, Sept 19	Gulfcoast (Freshman)	Away	5:00pm
Thurs, Sept 20	Cape Coral Christian (V.)	Away	3:30pm
Mon, Sept 24	S.W.F.C (V.)	Home	5:00pm
Tues, Sept 25	Gulfcoast (Freshman)	Home	5:00pm
Thurs, Sept 28	Evangelical Christian (J.V.)	Away	5:00pm

Mon, Oct 1	Immokalee (V.)	Home	5:00pm
Tues, Oct 2	Lely (J.V.)	Away	5:00pm
Fri, Oct 5	S.W.F.C.(V.)	Away	5:00pm
Mon, Oct 8	Community School (J.V.)	Home	5:00pm
Mon, Oct 8	Community School (M.S.)	Home	6:30pm
Tues, Oct 9	Florida Christian (V.)	Home	5:00pm
Thurs, Oct 11	Canterbury (J.V.)	Away	5:30pm
Fri, Oct 12	West Glades School (M.S.)	Home	5:00pm
Mon, Oct 15	St. John Neumann (J.V.)	Away	5:30pm
Tues, Oct 16	Seacrest (V.)	Away	5:00pm
Thurs, Oct 18	Evangelical Christian (J.V.)	Home	5:00pm

SCHOOL NEWS

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561 website: www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg

WELCOME TO NEW TEACHERS !!!

Amy Wowk (pre-K) was raised in New Britain, CT, along with two brothers and a sister. She grew up dancing, playing the violin and bandura (a Ukrainian stringed instrument), and singing in the church choir. In college and in



Graduate School she studied Dance, Education, and ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages). Last summer Amy moved to Kissimmee where she enjoyed Disneyworld with her two children, Jonathan (age 15) and Sofia (age 2). This past weekend they moved to Naples. Amy and her family are enjoying all the Everglades has to offer: they have been on the Ten Thousand Island boat ride, seen the beautiful dolphins, and visited H.P. Williams Roadside Park to take pictures of alligators (which are new to them!). Amy says it's exciting to see different wildlife and learn about a new eco-system first hand. Everglades City School and the Collier County District School Board have been very welcoming and helpful to the new teachers and Amy would like to thank the Everglades community for being so friendly and so supportive of our school. She feels it is a privilege to work with the children and adults here.



Karen Nicholson (ESE) is happy to say that she is a new teacher in our "enchanted, friendly, little island of the Everglades." Although new here, she has taught with Collier County Schools for over ten years. Karen is returning after staying

home for two years with her two sons Johnny (6 years old) and Tommy (4 years old). Her husband, John, owns a company in Naples and they have been in Naples and Marco Island for over 13 years. Karen has lived many other places around the world and enjoys getting students excited about learning and their future goals ... learning is exciting!



Patricia (Patti) Jones (3rd & 4th Grades) in photo left, was born in Tampa but grew up on the other coast near West Palm Beach. She says she is happy to be a native Florida girl. Patti has been in Collier County since 1996 and has taught for CCPS for seven years, mostly in Immokalee. She feels so fortunate to be teaching in the Everglades community that "very much reminds me of the Florida I remember growing up in". Patti says that has received such a warm welcome from everyone she has met here and is so looking forward to her time here with the students and community.

Tracy Jones (2nd Grade), right in photo, recently moved here from Columbus, Ohio, with her husband and two sons. Their elder son, Nicholas, is in 5th grade and the younger, Cameron, is in 1st. The family lives in Naples, but the children come with her to school in Everglades City. Tracy previously taught at a small private school in suburban Columbus. She graduated from the Ohio State University and for a time worked in the Ohio House of Representatives. Tracy enjoys reading, watching her sons play sports, and being with friends and family. She's excited to be a part of the Everglades City School family and definitely enjoying her second graders.

The Rapper will have interviews with the rest of the new teachers in our next issue.

**PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING AND CITY COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007**

THE CITY OF EVERGLADES CITY WILL HOLD A CITY COUNCIL MEETING ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2007 AT 5:30 PM CITY HALL CHAMBERS, 102 COPELAND & BROADWAY, EVERGLADES CITY, FLORIDA. THERE MAY BE OCCASIONS WHEN ONE OR MORE COUNCIL PERSONS WILL PARTICIPATE BY TELEPHONE. AT THE ABOVE LOCATION THERE WILL BE PRESENT A SPEAKER TELEPHONE SO THAT ANY INTERESTED PERSON CAN ATTEND THE MEETING AT THE ABOVE LOCATION AND BE FULLY INFORMED OF THE DISCUSSIONS TAKING PLACE EITHER IN PERSON OR BY TELEPHONE COMMUNICATION.

1. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

******PUBLIC HEARING******

[A] FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2007-02

AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING AND FIXING THE MILLAGE RATE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008; FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING SUFFICIENT FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL OBLIGATION FOR THE CITY OF EVERGLADES CITY.

[B] FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2007-03

AN ORDINANCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADOPTING THE FISCAL BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008.

[C] SECOND READING OF ORDINANCE NO. 2007-01

AN ORDINANCE "OPTING OUT" AND EXEMPTING THE CITY OF EVERGLADES CITY FROM THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 101.657, FLORIDA STATUTES, RELATED TO "EARLY VOTING" AND THE REQUIREMENTS THEREOF; REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

******REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING******

2. ADOPT TENTATIVE MILLAGE/ORDINANCE 2007-02

3. ADOPT TENTATIVE BUDGET/ORDINANCE 2007-03

4. ADOPT ORDINANCE NO. 2007-01/OPTING OUT-EARLY VOTING

5. MAYORS REPORT

6. COLLIER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT REPORT

7. PROCLAMATION/EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

8. PROCLAMATION/SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

9. BUDGET AMENDMENTS 2006-2007

10. BAD DEBTS AND EQUIPMENT WRITE OFF FOR 2006-2007

11. PUBLIC COMMENT

12. NEW BUSINESS

13. OLD BUSINESS

14. APPROVAL OF BILLS

15. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

16. REPORTS (A) CITY ATTORNEY

(B) COUNCIL PERSONS: JOHNNIE POTTER, JAMES LANDRUM, TAMMY SMALLWOOD, MCBETH COLLINS, PARKER OGLESBY

17. ADJOURNMENT

NOTICE: ALL PERSONS WISHING TO SPEAK ON ANY AGENDA ITEM MUST REGISTER PRIOR TO THE MEETING.

ALL REGISTERED PUBLIC SPEAKERS WILL BE LIMITED TO FIVE (5) MINUTES, UNLESS PERMISSION FOR ADDITIONAL TIME IS GRANTED BY THE MAYOR.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL A DECISION BY THIS COUNCIL WILL NEED A RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS PERTAINING THERETO, AND THEREFORE MAY NEED TO ENSURE THAT A VERBATIM RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS IS MADE, UPON WHICH THE APPEAL IS TO BE BASED

THIS AGENDA WAS POSTED AT CITY HALL AND BROADCASTED ON THE LOCAL TV CHANNEL, THIS 28 DATE OF AUGUST 2007 BY DOTTIE JOINER, CITY CLERK.



Fishing Report

by Bill Lindsay

Snook season opens September 1st with new rules: One fish limit per person, 28-33 inch (pinched tail). These new limits carry a very small keeper slot size. A month and a half additional closed period has been added to Gulf waters even though we get a larger slot size than the Atlantic coast. Looks to me like the Feds have their oranges and apples mixed up.

Hopefully, the dog days of August temperatures are behind us and we can enjoy fishing in the middle of the day. Snook fishing should be good and top water plugs will work well during the morning and late afternoon hours. During the middle of the day, go deep with lures or at least cast into shady areas under mangroves. Redfishing has been good all summer and should remain so. Snapper, trout, and tarpon fishing is productive as long as you know where to find them. Tripletail fishing is worth it if the weather is calm. Offshore permit grouper and snapper on the shallow Gulf wrecks should remain strong.

Capt. Bill Lindsay lives in Chokoloskee and has been fishing in the Everglades National Park for 27 years. In 1992 he was Master Angler of the MET Tournament.



FLORIDA FLORA

This is the "swamp lily" or "string lily", a member of the Amaryllis family. According to Roger Hammer in his book *Everglades Wildflowers*, "The leaves and bulbs are poisonous to humans if eaten but are a favored food of the Lubber grasshopper". You can just see one in the shade on a leaf under the flower in this photo taken on August 17. Other varieties may be smaller and pure white. The annual bloom lasts only about a week.

SWAMP TALES

by Bob N. Wallace



Fried gator tail, rattlesnake steak, frog legs and raw oysters. Have I lost my mind?

Many people often say "Yuck!" at the sound of such morsels of food. But don't knock these tasty tidbits until you have tried them. I grew up in Oklahoma where there have always been Spring rattlesnake round-ups, hunts and festivals in communities like Apache, Mangum, Waurika, Okeene and Waynoka. I never tried this epicurean delight, but I asked how fried rattlesnake tasted and was assured it tasted like fried chicken. I'll take their word for it.

What about gator tail? That's a delicacy found on many restaurant menus in the Everglades area. I have tried gator tail, which tastes to me like it has a "pork chop taste", and I believe it goes best with traditional Southern Florida fixin's such as cheese grits, sausage and gravy biscuits, and fried okra. It can sometimes be rather tough to chew, but when done right, it is delicious.

Frog legs, thought by some to be survival food, along with squirrel, opossum, raccoon and wild boar, are often called a delicacy. Frog legs may be found on the menus of some of the finest restaurants anywhere and are often compared to the taste of white chicken. I happen to like frog legs and recommend them to your palate.

Oysters can really be a turnoff to many people. The first time I was ever confronted by this menu item it was an experience. They were fried on a hot plate of steel over an open fire and were covered by wet burlap bags. It didn't take long for the sound of popcorn to come from under the wet bags when the oyster shells had opened enough to reveal the morsels inside ready to eat. Soon after, I was introduced to raw oysters. That was a real mental block for me that soon became a welcome gastronomical delight. However, it's best not to eat raw oysters these days unless you are certain of their origin and when they were harvested. Clams and oysters, can cause hepatitis if taken from polluted waters.

If you are visiting in the Everglades area, there are a lot of adventurous things to do in the outdoors and in the restaurants. Try different foods and look at it as an adventure. But, don't blame me if you later have a dose of Pepto-Bismol for dessert. Bon Appetite and good luck!

Harvesting the Garden

by Marya Repko

(with thanks to friends and neighbors who have shared their bounty)



Okra are so plentiful now that it is hard to figure out what to do with them before they grow so big on the plant that they get woody and inedible. If that happens, save the seeds for next year!

We often think of okra as the slimy veggie served up in stews. However, it can also be cooked for a very short time (throw whole pods into boiling water for 1 or 2 minutes until they turn darker green) and then eaten like asparagus, dipped into spicy mayonnaise. Or, let it cool and then slice up into a salad to give a crunchy interest.

If you want to freeze okra to use later (sliced and sautéed with garlic and onion and freshly-ground black pepper as a side dish), boil briefly as above and put it into tight containers while still hot.



Tracy Stokes has launched a new book entitled "Birds, Bees and Cypress Trees" which is described as "a visual journey through images captured in the Florida Everglades".

She wrote in an email, "I worked very hard on it and had A LOT of fun putting it together! It's packed with color photographs taken from just outside my back door."

Tracy is organizing signings at various locales around town and will be at Big House Coffee in Chokoloskee on Saturday afternoon. The books are also available for sale at the Chamber of Commerce Welcome Center in Carnestown (US-41 & SR-29). You can see sample pages and order online at www.evergladeswildlife.net.

LOCAL HISTORY



Mark your Calendar!

There is an Opening Reception on **Thursday, September 27**, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. for an exhibit of the Storter Collection at the Historical Museum of Southern Florida in downtown Miami.

More information in our next issue or phone Patty on 695-2397.

NOTES FROM THE END OF THE ROAD

Artist Dick Jay is the Real Thing

by Avery Sumner

I asked how much I owed him for painting our store's sign.

"A bottle of whiskey," he replied. And I knew I was going to like him.

Artist Dick Jay has been a friend ever since. He's painted many more signs for me, helped cook in the kitchen, played guitar and fiddle for the customers, loaned tools, given advice and still won't take any payment - a bottle of whiskey being the only exception.

He says he just likes seeing our business survive. Folks like this are what make small town life. And souls like Dick Jay's are all that's needed for a genuine artist. To me, having the technical expertise to paint a picture or play a song is only a minor part in the creation of real art.

My friend Dick took up music, painting, woodworking, metalworking and just about every other art form late in life. He didn't even pick up a fiddle until he was in his seventies.

Dick has had no formal training in music completely self-taught. And despite this, his songs can bring tears; his work can really move you. Dick Jay has an artist's soul.

Dick lives on Plantation at his "tarpon bend fish camp." His place is painted red, with funky designs accenting his windows and porch.

Like many creative people, Dick is somewhat of a recluse so doesn't entertain often. But if he invites you over, he means it and he'll give you an enthusiastic tour.

Dick doesn't answer the front door, but be ware on your way to the back. A snake fashioned from an automobile's tail pipe lurks in the grass keeping guard.

Once by the snake, you typically have to make your way through various projects-in-the-works. Last time I was there Dick's back yard looked like a flower garden from Oz. Hand made and painted metal posies were bundled and drying everywhere.

After knocking more than once (Dick's hard of hearing) the tour begins. What Dick doesn't point out is just as fascinating as the paintings he prominently displays. He's painted just about everything in his house, including his television set. His bathroom is virtually an acrylic aquarium with painted sea creatures everywhere.

Welded light fixtures, painted bottles and a home-made wooden kayak are just a few of the one-of-a-kind treasures Dick has created.

If you're lucky, he'll play a song or two. He's a "one man cowboy band," and has rigged up a unique ensemble. He'll play the harmonica, guitar and keyboard all at once. In order to have it all going, he's welded himself a foot pedal to change the keyboard's rhythm.

I once heard another musician say, "Hey, that's cheating Dick." I think it's pretty darn ingenious myself.

That's what I like most about Dick, not his ingenuity, but his lack of care for the rules set by other "artists." He does what he likes, how he likes, when he likes.

And after looking at Dick's paintings of ancient Indians dancing out at Lostman's, or fisherfolk playing music on the steps of an old store, or hearing him play "The Orange Blossom Special," you know his craft if real, even if it doesn't play by the rules.

Dick Jay is an inspiration. He is an artist, a musician - a friend.


Avery Sumner owns Gumbo Limbo Gallery/Big House Coffee on Chokoloskee, the store begun by C.G. McKinney in 1890. He also wrote weekly columns for area newspapers. In the spirit of McKinney this is part of a series of from today's storekeeper. Sumner's essays are also published in Tropicalia, a weekly magazine inside The News-Press of Ft. Myers. See www.news-press.com to view others.

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Tribute to Ms Frances

Family, friends, and neighbors gathered at Fuller Funeral home in East Naples on Ms Frances Hodge's 101ST birthday,

August 22, to celebrate her life on earth which passed after a brief illness. Pastor John Gilmore of Copeland Baptist Mission led a lively and inspiring ceremony, saying that we are in grief until we rejoice that a "child of God has gone to glory". The "Rev", as Ms Frances called him, said that he thought she would be around forever. She was always alert and outspoken and "feisty".

He said our memories will keep her alive and asked that we share. So many people said that she was like a mother to them; "my big momma", according to one contributor. Sister-in-law Jessie Green relayed that Ms Frances told her "I worked for what I got" and "I talk with Jesus every day". Jessie then led the singing of "when you hear I'm home going, don't worry about me". Her adopted daughter Willie Mae emotionally recalled that they had ups and downs but went to the Bible when there was trouble. She is grateful to Ms Frances for teaching her about the Lord and encouraging her to get a good education.

Neighbors and friends said they remember her smile and how she used to do things for everyone. She "paved the way because she was so strong-willed". Her loves were fishing, shopping, eating, and laughing. A friend related about being "high-jacked" for a family reunion in Alabama that lasted three months! A neighbor said "time is the most valuable thing you can give some one" and regretted (probably echoing the thoughts of many in the congregation) that we had not spent enough of it with her. We heard in an amusing and well-told story about how on Ms Frances' last birthday she "caught" a fish on Naples pier thanks to a stranger who encouraged her to pull in a snapper that he had snagged.

Listening to all the affectionate tributes, her brother Reverend G. D. Green from Greensboro, Alabama, said he was heartened by the great support she had here and remarked that she had a way of encouraging people to make them do good things for themselves. He thanked everyone and said "if you were her friend, you are mine!"

Pastor Gilmore told how Ms Frances once appeared at Copeland Baptist Mission just as he was beginning the service because her ride had not arrived; her faith was so strong she had struggled on her own to walk there rather than miss Sunday worship. As he said, "what better birthday present than to hear Jesus welcoming you" ...

A fund in Ms Frances' memory has been set up by Reach Out, our neighborhood charity. You can contribute by sending a check to the "Frances Hodge Memorial Fund" payable to Reach Out Everglades, P.O.Box 894, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138.

GOLDEN MARRIAGE

Congratulations to Pastor Morris and Mrs Martha Dantin of Chokoloskee on their 50th wedding anniversary. They are seen in this photo renewing their vows at the chapel called "Almost Heaven" in the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee.



They met when he was stationed in the Army at Ft. Ritchey, MD, only a few miles from where they married as teenagers. Although they had a small ceremony then, "through the years we have found that it is not the wedding that makes a marriage. We thank God for blessing our marriage."



FROM A LINC LETTER ...

Some 'uv ya have asked or wondered among yourselves 'just what ole Linc 'ud do when he can't do all those things he used ta do?' Like those years when him & Bea travelled all over North America on tha back roads – inna tent with 'uh station wagon– or 'uh ½

Ton Pickup with 'uh camper shell - 'uh home built "custom" van with 12 volt DC solar electric, 120 volts AC inverter , gas & propane engine, computer, printer, all wave radio bands, – 'uh slide-in-over-the-cab-camper with all 'uv tha stuff we had inna van but with more space, volume, watts, heat exchangers and "secret" compartments for illegal stuff like more money, gun, gold nuggets and "medication". Or whatta 'bout those 'Boonie' trips, those 4 day- 3nitters that I took at least once with Bea but mostly with ole Joe & Bill or after they died with ole Bob Floyd & Bill Greeman. Or those long trips like with Bob Thomas clear down ta Key West and back up across Florida Bay, computer-satalite guided! Or up ta Ft.Myers – tha Caloosahatchee clear over to Clewston! Yep – what'll ole Linc do now bein' up into his 90's!

Yep, ya wondered what he'd do without his beer mankin, his beloved garden & good ole "Peaches", tha solar 'lectric, tha 100 ft. tower and 'repeater'. So let me tell ya just what I'm doin' now. Bea & me 'er kinda 'babysittin' 'uh brand new house anna cat or two, now an then. We're just kinda 'sojournin' over here in Vero Beach, still keep some good 'ole roots' in Plantation Island, Marco and Naples. We do the health care bit – doctors, dentist, cardiologists, therapistists 'uv one kind or another. They're mostly tha ones that been tellin' me I'ma mirical ole man with a 'uh pretty good body, lots 'uh white hair anna very active mind! Well, I'm havin' 'uh great time – cookin' for one thing, takin' receipts an "tinkerin" with 'em. Playin' around with meats, fish, flours, yeasts, spices and all that stuff - kinda like 'uh Emeril shadow. Cook books R fun readin' and bein' 'uh chemist & former 'food technologist' (among other things) I'm havin' fun & Bea likes tha relief from kitchen duties.

This is an extract from a long missive that Lincoln Frost sent to his email pals and has graciously let us reprint.

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WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

PUBLISHER

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications
P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139
telephone (239) 695-2397
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PRODUCTION

layout by Marya Repko
printing by Snook Publications

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We aim to provide local news that is of interest to
the extended community of Everglades City,
Chokoloskee, Plantation Island, Lee Cypress,
Copeland, Jerome, and Ochopee.

*We strive to present the facts accurately
without political bias or personal opinion.*

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

25¢ per issue
\$38 per year by US Post

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