

The MULLET RAPPER

WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2007

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume I • Issue #37



DUNK THE PASTOR ...

Devoted and good-natured John Gilmore is offering visitors at the COPELAND FALL FESTIVAL a chance to dump him into a tub of water next weekend.

The Copeland Baptist Mission Fall Festival is on Saturday, October 6, and Sunday, October 7, from 1:00 p.m. onwards each day.

There will be 3-legged sack races, sales of donated baked goods, an auction, and a talent show.

The organizers also want people to take part in the Chili Cook-off Contest.

For more info and to sign up for special events, phone Gina at 695-2900, Carol at 695-4154, or Sue at 695-1090.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
Join in this neighborhood
family-fun event!

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UPDATE ON OUR WATER

by Patricia Huff



Recently a tourist commented that the water in their rental unit was yellow and asked if it is this way all over town. Unfortunately, it is; apparently some places worse than others. However, according to state and local officials, the water is still safe to drink.

Our City water comes from wells in Copeland and the well water has to be disinfected with some type of chlorination process. However, when water is treated with chlorine, there are by-products; two of these are Trihalomethanes (TTHM) and Haloacetic Acids (HAA5). In January 2007 the City changed its potable water disinfection process from free residual **chlorination** to a **chloramines** disinfection with the hope that this would lower the TTHM and HAA5 levels. Chlorine also determines the color of the water: when the amount of chlorine is cut back in the system (in order to lower the by-product levels), the more discoloration of the water; hence, the yellow color.

From January through November 2006 the TTHM results reported were above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). A year ago at the October 3, 2006, City Council meeting, Scott Lewis of U.S. Water Services Corp., reported that the yellow water was due to rust that got into the system when a filter was bypassed. He also said that the TTHM by-product of chlorine would be reduced by the new treatments. By March 2007 the levels had dropped significantly after the City switched to **chloramines**. However, the quarter ending June 2007 saw the TTHM levels rise again. According to Mark Charneski of the Florida DEP, the ammonium pump failed and the amount of chlorine had to be cut back. This is why we are again seeing the discoloration. The color is a secondary concern; the main issue for our health lies with the reduction of TTHM and HAA5 levels.

In an August 1, 2007, letter from the Florida DEP to the Mayor, the City water system generated a MCL violation for Color. This requires the City to take necessary corrective action and submit a written plan of action to the DEP for approval. The plan would identify the steps to be taken to correct the color violation. Gary Heins, Regional Project Manager with U.S. Water, says that they are awaiting results from this month's analysis and are all working on solutions to the problem.

Mayor Sammy Hamilton told the *Rapper* that the City is continuing to work on the water system to improve its quality. If the current disinfection process does not solve the problem, it may be necessary to either dig the wells deeper or completely clean the storage tank. This would require applying for grants but may be the necessary course of action.

We feel that this should be a top priority given the length of time it has taken to clear the water and reduce the TTHM levels.

OCTOBER 2007

○ new moon

full moon ●

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
<p>SEPT 23</p> <p>Mobile Pet Vet</p> <p>Bible Study at the Rockpit 6pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm</p>	<p>25</p> <p>SAC meeting School, 3 pm</p>	<p>● 26</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am</p> <p>Wine Tasting Naples, 7-9 pm</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Storter Exhibit at HMSF, Miami</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>● 29</p> <p>Walking Tour 1:30 pm, see p.7</p> <p>Museum Reception 2-4 pm, see p.7</p>
<p>30</p>	<p>OCT 1</p> <p>ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm</p>	<p>2</p> <p>FME mtg Comm. Church, 9 am</p> <p>Jim Coletta City Hall, 2-4pm</p> <p>George Barton City Hall, 3-5pm</p> <p>City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Great Gators School, 9:30</p> <p>Lions Club District Gov. Seafood Depot 4-7 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>City Elections Deadline see p.3</p> <p>RedSnook Tournament all weekend (239) 403-4216</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Fall Festival Copeland Baptist Mission, 1 pm see p.1</p> <p>Thrift Shop 11 am, see p.3</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Fall Festival Copeland Baptist Mission, 1 pm see p.1</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm</p> <p>OCFD Board Fire Station, 7 pm</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Betterment Association Comm. Center 6 pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am</p>	<p>○ 11</p> <p>Sons of Confederate Veterans Open to Public Seafood Depot 7 pm</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Stuck on a Sandbar Fishing Tournament (863) 673-6688</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Reach Out 8:30 a.m.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Lions Club Business Mtg 5:30 pm</p> <p>Copeland Civic 7 pm</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p>
<p>21</p>	<p>22</p> <p>School teachers' planning</p> <p>Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Mission, 7 pm</p>	<p>23</p> <p>SAC meeting School, 3 pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>● 26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Mobile Pet Vet McLeod Park 9 am to 1 pm</p> <p>Copeland 2 to 4 pm</p>

THRIFT SHOP: REOPENING Sat, 10/6, 11:00 am - 3:00 p.m.
 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

SKATING RINK: Friday/Saturday, 7:00 - 10:00 pm
 ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church
 SMALLWOOD STORE: daily 11 am to 5 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

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 10/02 (3-5pm) 10/3 (9-11am) 10/9 (9-11am) 10/10 (noon-2pm) 10/12 (9-11am) 10/14 (10am-noon)

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

COLETTA'S VISIT



Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners Jim Coletta, who represents our local area, will be at City Hall from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m on **Tuesday, October 2**, for his regular monthly visit to talk with concerned citizens. He will then welcome local constituents to join him for dinner at at the Seafood Depot after the City Council meeting that evening.

You can contact his aide Lisa by phone at (239)-252-8097 or email Jim at jimcoletta@colliergov.net.

Coletta grew up in Elmira in upstate New York and was in business there until he moved to Naples in 1984. He settled in Golden Gate where he became active in community organizations and won recognition for his achievements. He was first elected as a Collier County Commissioner in November 2000.

Although he will not be here on on October 14, we wish him a Happy Birthday on that day.

THRIFT SHOP OPENS AGAIN!

The Thrift Shop operated by Reach Out, our neighborhood charity, will re-open on **Saturday, October 6**. Hours will be 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each Saturday. Volunteers are needed for weekdays so please stop in if you can help.

Rookery Bay is offering free boat trips during Estuary Day, **Saturday, September 29**. The event begins at 10:00 a.m. See their website www.rookerybay.org.



Wading birds have been feeding all around the city after all the rain.



The new bricks that we ordered have been installed in front of City Hall.

CITY ELECTIONS

October 5 is the deadline to submit names for the upcoming local election. A petition with 25 signatures of registered voters must be presented on the official forms which are available from the City Clerk. The positions up for re-election are Tammy Smallwood and Parker Oglesby as City Councilors as well as Sammy Hamilton as Mayor.

If there are no opposing candidates, there will be no election. For more info, contact Dottie in City Hall at 695-3871.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 09/13/07: Emer. Med., Everglades City
- 09/13/07: Vehicle Accident, 50m I-75
- 09/13/07: Vehicle Accident, 47m I-75
- 09/13/07: Vehicle Fire, SR-29 & I-75
- 09/13/07: Vehicle Accident, 56m I-75
- 09/14/07: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 09/14/07: Possible Over Dose, 82m I-75
- 09/14/07: Person Dehydrated, Ochopee
- 09/15/07: Vehicle Accident, US-41 & CR-92
- 09/16/07: Vehicle Accident, 64m I-75
- 09/16/07: Vehicle Accident, 66m I-75
- 09/16/07: Emer. Med., SR-29 North of I-75
- 09/16/07: Vehicle Accident, 77m I-75
- 09/17/07: Median Fire, 81m I-75
- 09/17/07: Vehicle Fire, 3m East of CR-92
- 09/18/07: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 09/19/07: Vehicle Accident, 73m I-75
- 09/19/07: Vehicle Accident, 81m I-75
- 09/19/07: Possible Stroke, Plantation Island
- 09/21/07: Emer. Med., Lee Cypress
- 09/21/07: Vehicle Accident, 63m I-75
- 09/21/07: Vehicle Accident, 77m I-75
- 09/22/07: Vehicle Accident, 63m I-75
- 09/22/07: Vehicle Accident, 73m I-75
- 09/22/07: Vehicle Accident, 74m I-75
- 09/23/07: Person Fell, Everglades City
- 09/23/07: Sick Person, Port of the Islands
- 09/23/07: Possible Drowning, Port of the Islands
- 09/23/07: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 2m N of I-75
- 09/24/07: Vehicle Fire, 80m I-75
- 09/24/07: Vehicle Fire, 78m I-75
- 09/24/07: Unresponsive Person, 57m I-75
- 09/24/07: Vehicle Accident, 69m I-75
- 09/25/07: Possible Stroke, Everglades City

Paul Wilson resigned for medical reasons and Alan McLaughlin is now Acting Chief.

MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, October 27**. There will be no surgery on Sunday and she does not plan a visit in November. The next dates will be December 1 & 2. Phone 777-PETS.



TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

INFORMATION FROM <http://TIDESANDCURRENTS.NOAA.GOV>

09/28/2007	Fri	03:27AM	3.3	H	11:22AM	-0.2	L	04:40PM	3.1	H	11:34PM	0.6	L
09/29/2007	Sat	03:54AM	3.4	H	12:11PM	-0.2	L	05:40PM	2.9	H			
09/30/2007	Sun	12:10AM	0.8	L	04:26AM	3.4	H	01:03PM	-0.2	L	06:49PM		
10/01/2007	Mon	12:48AM	0.9	L	05:05AM	3.4	H	02:03PM	-0.1	L	08:08PM	2.4	H
10/02/2007	Tue	01:31AM	1.0	L	05:58AM	3.2	H	03:12PM	0.1	L	09:48PM	2.3	H
10/03/2007	Wed	02:45AM	1.1	L	07:30AM	3.0	H	04:30PM	0.2	L			
10/04/2007	Thu	12:28AM	2.4	H	04:35AM	1.1	L	09:26AM	2.8	H	05:45PM	0.2	L
10/05/2007	Fri	01:06AM	2.5	H	06:02AM	1.0	L	10:59AM	2.9	H	06:48PM	0.2	L
10/06/2007	Sat	01:23AM	2.5	H	07:05AM	0.8	L	12:12PM	2.9	H	07:39PM	0.3	L
10/07/2007	Sun	01:32AM	2.5	H	07:55AM	0.7	L	01:07PM	3.0	H	08:23PM	0.3	L
10/08/2007	Mon	01:43AM	2.6	H	08:38AM	0.5	L	01:51PM	3.0	H	09:01PM	0.4	L
10/09/2007	Tue	01:59AM	2.8	H	09:16AM	0.4	L	02:28PM	3.0	H	09:36PM	0.5	L
10/10/2007	Wed	02:18AM	2.9	H	09:52AM	0.3	L	03:02PM	3.0	H	10:08PM	0.6	L
10/11/2007	Thu	02:39AM	3.0	H	10:27AM	0.2	L	03:36PM	2.9	H	10:37PM	0.7	L
10/12/2007	Fri	02:59AM	3.1	H	11:01AM	0.1	L	04:11PM	2.8	H	11:04PM	0.8	L

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SCHOOL NEWS

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, Sept 27: Report Cards (grades 9-12)

Thurs, Oct 4: Great Gators, 9:30 am

Mon, Oct 1: VOLLEYBALL home, 5:00 pm

Mon, Oct 8: VOLLEYBALL home, 5:00 pm

Tues, Oct 9: VOLLEYBALL home, 5:00 pm

Fri, Oct 12: VOLLEYBALL home, 5:00 pm

Mon, Oct 22: Teacher Planning Day

Tues, Oct 23: SAC, 3:00 pm

Fri, Oct 26: Report Cards (K-12)

Wed, Oct 31: Early Release



From Savannah's Eyes

One recent weekend my brother Shaun, my mom Rudy, my dad Parker, and I were on the boat. We were just cruising around when my Mom looked up at the sky. She saw something pink, and it had a beak like a flamingo. Then my Mom looked up at the sky again and noticed it *was* a flamingo! We were near Lostman's River. She quickly said "Look up at the sky!" and we all looked up and we saw it too; it was beautiful and I heard long ago that flamingos were here on the islands in the Everglades. We were so amazed because it was just flying slowly over the bow of our boat! We just kept on looking at it until it finally flew away to a nearby island. We were all very amazed to see such a wonderful sight.

The Sunday after that weekend we were riding on our boat again. We were out by Indian Key, and it was very peaceful. I looked to my right as the wind in my hair stroked in my face. I could not see very well because of my hair so I stroked it back and, as I stroked it, I saw a flipper coming out of the water. I was so amazed because it looked like it was coming our way. So I jumped out of my seat and turned back and yelled "Dolphins."

My Mom and Dad looked back, and me too. We all saw the dolphins, three of them. They were going to do a show because they were riding the waves. They were so funny; they jumped up into the air and swam on their backs. Water sprayed in my face as my Mom and I were yelling happily and my Dad was smiling.

Oh, what joy they brought to us. Then when they finished the show, one of the dolphins jumped up so high and waved good-bye with its tail. So we waved back. After that we went to an island and saw different kinds of jellyfish. There were some that were shaped like donuts and more shapes and all of the colors that there can be. It was weird but we loved looking at them anyway.

Dolphins, flamingos, jellyfish – what else can you ask for on a boat ride on a sunny day in the Everglades. Yeah !!!!!!!

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



Open House on Thursday, September 13, was enjoyed by all.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

by Patricia Huff

Parents, staff, teachers, and community members attended the first meeting of the School Advisory Council on Tuesday, September 25. School Board member Richard Calabrese was also on hand to respond to any needs the school may have. In the absence of Principal Bobby Jones, the agenda item relating to school uniforms was postponed until the next meeting on October 23. Elections for new officers will also be held at that time. Anyone interested in serving on SAC, contact Dana Snider at 695-2561.

Vice-Chair Patty Huff discussed the Perfect Attendance Program that has been ongoing since 2003 but with very little increase in school attendance. Rather than awarding the students with a field trip, it was recommended that the students be rewarded on a more regular monthly basis, similar to the Great Gators program. Pam Drake agreed to take over the after-school Kids Activity Club on Thursdays. Extra-curricula programs with the park services was discussed; i.e., Big Cypress Swamp 6th grade program, ENP's Junior Ranger Day and Career Day Rookery Bay. Tim England, from Museum of the Everglades, presented programs for students and invited teachers to consider a Summer Art Exhibit with students submitting essays about the history of our area, historical buildings, or people from the past as well as pieces of art. He also mentioned that next April there will be a celebration of the 80th anniversary of the opening of the Tamiami Trail and invited the school to participate.

Mrs. Snider said that Everglades City School had increased to C+ based on last year's FCAT scores. Mr. Calabrese said that 13 schools in the County had dropped down a grade so it was a great achievement to see that our school had increased. He also mentioned that no high school in the County had received an "A".

October is National WALK TO SCHOOL Month
For more info, see www.naplespathways.org.





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Fishing Report

by Bill Lindsay

As days get a little shorter and the water temperatures drop a little, large schools of bait fish start to migrate south. Many of these schools have birds over them and it can be productive to cast jigs or spoons around them. Mackerel, jacks and even trout can be taken this way. Keep an eye out for schools of "breeder" redbfish moving up and down the coast. At this time of year, they may look like a copper patch moving just below the surface. Soon sheepshead and gag grouper will begin to move into shallow water and can be caught on oyster bars and wrecks. Snook should start to head for the backcountry where water levels start to drop as a result of northeast winds and less rain. Top water plugs are the most fun, but on bright sunny days, try going with jigs or deep running plugs. Through September snook and redbfishing has been good. Captain Herb Kehoe reports catching some nice snook and tripletail. Captain Ray Culver brought in a 33" snook. If the water stays warm, we should hook plenty of tarpon early and late in the day.

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.



LOCAL HISTORY

Local history aficionado Alvin Lederer has sent us this rare photo of the Watson Place at Chatham Bend taken from the south bank where Hanna Smith lived and some of the cane fields grew.

Alvin is looking for information about D.H. Whitton who lived at the Watson Place between 1914 and 1916. If you have any information, phone Marya at 695-2905.

SWAMP TALES

by Bob N. Wallace



Before coming to Florida, I used to think a hammock was a rope bed hung between two trees in which you took a nap during the summer. In the Florida Everglades, a hammock is also a cool, shady ground higher than its surrounding area covered with many hardwood broad-leaved evergreen trees. Some of the trees found in a Florida hammock have quite unusual names, such as gumbo-limbo (*Bursera simaruba*). This unique tree can sprout a new tree from one of its fallen branches and then create a living fence of gumbo-limbo trees.

Gumbo-limbo's have massive trunks two to three feet in diameter which support huge, irregular branches with spreading, rounded crowns. They become leafless during the year but bloom in winter, producing small inconspicuous flowers composed of three to five greenish petals arranged in elongate racemes that are spike-like clusters with each flower on its own stem.

The first time I ever saw one of these strange, but beautiful trees was alongside US 1 in Key Largo. They were red, barkless trees with an abundance of shady tree canopies. Some of my Haitian friends have told me the wood is very soft and easily carved and that they make drums from the trunk of gumbo-limbo trees.

The gumbo-limbo is also a very useful tree. Resins obtained from its bark smell like turpentine often used to make varnish, water repellent coatings, glue and incense. Several kinds of birds eat the fruits of the gumbo-limbo. The two largest gumbo-limbos in the United States are at the St. Mary's Star of the Sea Church in Key West and on Captiva Island near Fort Myers.

Down here in Florida, we call the gumbo-limbo tree the "tourist tree". Its red bark is mindful of tourists with flaking skin as they begin to peel from too much sunburn. Look for this unusual tree while you are here in South Florida. It is worth a picture and serves as a reminder to be careful while you are out in the sun. You may go home looking like a gumbo-limbo tree.

LOCAL SCENES AT MUSEUM

Meet The Artist on Saturday!

JoAnn Sanborn may live on Marco Island but her heart is in the Everglades and her paintings show it.

She says she ... *hopes enjoyment of her work will foster a more profound respect for the threatened landscape she portrays.* For more about JoAnn see www.sunshinestudios.net.

The reception to meet the artist at the Museum is on **Saturday, September 29**, from **2-4 p.m.** The exhibit

will be on show in the Pauline Reeves Gallery at the front of the Museum for the whole month of October. Hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and admission is by donation.

At **1:30 p.m.** there will also be a guided walking tour based on the book produced by the Friends of the Museum *Historic Building around Everglades City* but with extra snippets of local knowledge that are not in the book.



GLADES PHOTOS ON TV

Local photographer Tracy Stokes will be interviewed on FOX4-TV on Thursday, October 4, and will talk *live* about the Everglades and her book "Birds, Bees, & Cypress Knees" during their Morning Blend show which starts at 10:00 a.m.



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MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES



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Saturdays, 9 am – 4 pm
Admission is Free
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Contact Martha at 695-0008

ADVERTISER SPOT-LIGHT

The Museum started life as the old Laundry in 1927 which cleaned all the linens for the Inn and Rod & Gun as well as uniforms for Collier employees. After the laundry closed, it was used in the 1950s for offices and in 1965 was taken over by the Women's Club. Fundraising began in 1988 to restore it.

The Museum was opened in 1998 and is operated by Collier County. It has a permanent display of historic artifacts, including many photos of local families and places.

The Friends of the Museum host events here, such as the Meet the Artist reception on Saturday. They are planning a 2-day gala in April 2008 to celebrate their 10th birthday and the 80th anniversary of the Tamiami Trail.

The MULLET RAPPER

WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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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.

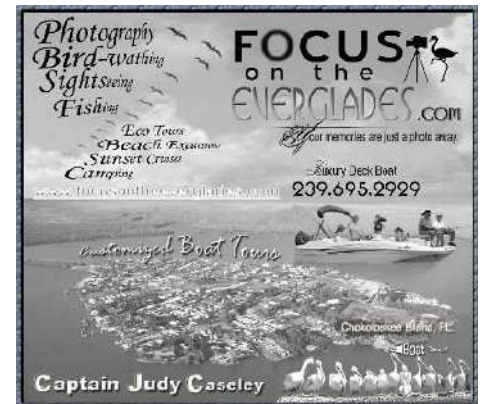
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