

The MULLET RAPPER

WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2007

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume I • Issue #38

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

Mayor Sammy Hamilton welcomed the eight firefighters to the meeting on October 2. The City will honor them and the Sheriff's Department with a cook-out on the second Saturday in May. He said that the County will give flu shots here on November 8th and that Halloween will be celebrated in McLeod Park on October 27.

Bobby Campbell, on behalf of the firefighters, presented the Mayor with a plaque and thanked him for "putting Ochopee Fire Control District on the map" within the County and for supporting their union negotiations recently.

Chris Ammerman, President of Reach Out & COPS, said that the County will provide transportation here for people who can not get to Naples by themselves for medical or other essential reasons. CAT busses would be available under the ParaTransit scheme if people fill in the forms, which are available at City Hall.

John Wilson said that he would postpone his question about the airport because the issue of a new City Attorney was pending. He also mentioned that the City water levels were not acceptable. The Mayor said he expected the water problem to be resolved within 30 days. In response to a question from Vicky Nagle about the color of the water, the Mayor said that U.S. Water has to pay the fines when the water is not up to standards.

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FEATURE: "GATORS", page 8

STONE CRAB SEASON STARTS!

by Patricia Huff

It's that exciting time of year again that we've all been waiting for – October 15!!! The beginning of stone crab season and one of our favorite no-cook meals. Living here and listening to the boats motor out early every morning, we take pride in our local fishermen who bring us food from the sea.



Driving or biking behind Everglades City School you'll see thousands of traps all lined up on the side of the road; in fact, one crab boat captain estimated that there are well over 50,000 traps in this area alone. Today, October 4, I saw several captains making final preparations for tonight. At 12:01 am on October 5 traps can be dropped in the water so fishermen and their families are all preparing. The Wells family has a 17-year tradition at the beginning of the season by making pound cake for the crew setting out (with lots of caffeine to keep them awake on the job).

Another young boat captain, Joe Stem Jr., spent quite a bit of time aboard the boat "Christy Lee" pulling crab traps and grouper fishing. This year he bought his own boat, one of the smaller ones in Everglades City, and will be setting out tonight with a crew consisting of the captain, one puller and one stacker as crew. He says he learned a lot from his time aboard the "Christy Lee" (owned by Sergio Valdez) and Capt. Joe says Capt. Sergio is one of the best. However, the owners sold their traps last year and the boat will now be used for grouper and lobster fishing.

To establish himself as a crabber, Capt. Joe purchased 800 certificates from another crabber (the State does not issue any new certificates so they have to be bought from someone willing to sell or getting out of the business). Each trap has to have a certificate and a tag. Prices can vary for the certificates; if they are sold for \$5 a piece, you would need \$4,000 for 800 certificates. THEN, the State keeps 22 ½ % of these so you end up with only 620 certificates. In addition, every year the tags must be renewed with the State (at a cost of 50 cents each) AND the state also charges "transfer fees" for each certificate purchased. In Capt. Joe's case, this amounted to another \$1412 (over 35% of certificate cost). Crab traps vary from \$14 to \$16 each so for 620, it will cost approximately \$9,300.

Today may be the final day of preparation, but it takes 2 to 3 months to prepare the traps, and the boat. Lots of hard work ... so when you go to the local fish market to pick up a couple of pounds of stone crabs, think of the effort and cost that goes into bringing those claws to your table. It's worth what you pay!


We appreciate our local crabbers and all their hard work. THANKS!!

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email snookcity@hotmail.com or phone 695-2397.

○ new moon

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007

full moon ●

| <u>SUN</u> | <u>MON</u> | <u>TUES</u> | <u>WED</u> | <u>THURS</u> | <u>FRI</u> | <u>SAT</u> |
|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| 7 Fall Festival Copeland Baptist Mission, 1 pm see p.1 | 8 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm OCFD Board Fire Station, 7 pm | 9 Betterment Association Comm. Center 6 pm | 10 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am | ○ 11 Sons of Confederate Veterans Open to Public Seafood Depot 7 pm | 12 | 13 Fishing Tournament (863) 673-6688 10K Islands Refuge Day see p.9 |
| 14 | 15 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm Stone Crab Season Starts | 16 Reach Out Comm. Church 8:30 a.m. | 17 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am | 18 Lions Club Business Mtg 5:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm | 19 OCFD Board deadline see p.3 | 20 Orchid Sale see p.9 |
| 21 | 22 School teachers' planning Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Mission, 7 pm | 23 SAC meeting School, 3 pm | 24 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am | 25 | ● 26 Yard Sale Big House C, Chok. see p.12 Voter Registration see p.3 | 27 Local Fishing Tournament see p.3 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3 Halloween Party 5-10 pm |
| 28 | 29 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm | 30 | 31 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am School early release Chamber of Commerce 5:30 pm | NOV 1 Great Gators School, 9:30 Lions Club Seafood Depot 7 pm | 2 | 3  CLOCKS CHANGE |
| 4 | 5 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm | 6 FME mtg Comm. Church, 9 am Jim Coletta City Hall, 2-4pm George Barton City Hall, 3-5pm City Council City Hall, 7 pm | 7 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am | 8 Flu Shots 1 - 3:30 pm Chok P.O. McLeod Park Adopt-a-Soldier see p.11 | ○ 9 | 10 |

THRIFT SHOP: Sat, 11:00 am - 3:00 p.m.

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

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church

CHRIST-CENTERED 12-STEP PROGRAM: Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Chokoloskee Church of God Annex Building **NEW LISTING!**

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

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: 10/12 (9-11 am) 10/16 (10am - noon) 10/17 (9-11 am) 10/19 (noon-2pm) 10/22 (9-11am)
10/23 (9-11 am) 10/25 (noon - pm) 10/29 (9-11 am)

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

SHERIFF'S REPORT

At the City Council meeting on October 2, Lt. Mark Milligan reported that there had been several incidents on the I-75 corridor involving thefts from vehicles and that the tires were removed from a crane on the Alley. There were also two thefts from unlocked premises; a laptop on Burns Road and an electric welder on Plantation Island. He repeated the warning that vehicles, houses, sheds, and boats should all be secured so as not invite "crimes of opportunity."

LOCAL FISHING TOURNAMENT



Glades Haven Marina is sponsoring the 2nd Annual "Poor Boy Catchem & Eatem" tournament on **Saturday, October 27**, beginning at 7:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$50 (only \$20 for kids) and includes a T-shirt plus BBQ dinner. Prizes awarded for Snook, Redfish, and Trout categories. For more info, phone 695-2628.

Stepping into Freedom

The Christ-Centered 12-Step program held at Chokoloskee Church of God now meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Everyone is welcome. For info, phone Lessie on 695-4626.



UNIQUE BOARD GAME!

Reach Out will have a limited-edition "Town-opoly" board game for sale with local area properties on the squares. They hope to take delivery in December in time for the holiday season. **You can order the game now for \$25 (or \$30 with postage) by phoning Captain Judy Caseley at 695-2929.**

This will make an unusual, once-in-a-lifetime gift. All profits go to Reach Out Everglades & C.O.P.S. Inc, our neighborhood charity which does so much to help local people.

NOTE: Small message spots for \$50 each are still available on the board. The deadline is October 15 when the final design will go to the factory.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS

Registered voters who will not be here to select the Mayor and City Councilors in the local election on November 27 can apply for absentee ballots by contacting Dottie Joiner, City Clerk, at City Hall on (239) 695-2871 or write to P. O. Box 110, Everglades City, FL, 34139. *ECity residents who are not on the list can register to vote before **October 27**.*

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 09/26/07: Person Fell, Everglades City
- 09/28/07: Vehicle Accident, 53m I-75
- 09/29/07: Vehicle Accident, West of 68m I-75
- 09/30/07: Assault Victim, 61m I-75
- 10/01/07: Vehicle Accident, Chokoloskee Bridge
- 10/02/07: Vehicle Accident, 54m I-75
- 10/04/07: Vehicle Accident, 66m I-75
- 10/06/07: Vehicle Accident, 55m I-75
- 10/07/07: Vehicle Accident, US-41 & Burns Rd
- 10/07/07: Vehicle Fire, Everglades City
- 10/08/07: Structure Fire, Plantation Island
- 10/08/07: Fire Alarm, Everglades City
- 10/09/07: Vehicle Accident, 64m I-75

VACANCY ON OFCD ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Ochopee Fire Control District Advisory Committee had one term expire on December 31, 2006, representing Chokoloskee Island and Copeland. This 5 member committee advises the Board on the budget and operation of the Ochopee Fire Control District. Members must reside within the taxing district. Terms are 2 years. Applications may be obtained by calling (239) 252-8097 or by visiting website www.colliergov.net.

Deadline for acceptance of resumes is **Friday, October 19, 2007.**

MOBILE PET VET



Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, October 27** in **McLeod Park from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** and in **Copeland from 2:00 to 4:00 pm**. 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>

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|---------|-----|---|---------|------|---|---------|-----|---|---------|-----|---|
| 10/12/2007 | Fri | 02:59AM | 3.1 | H | 11:01AM | 0.1 | L | 04:11PM | 2.8 | H | 11:04PM | 0.8 | L |
| 10/13/2007 | Sat | 03:18AM | 3.1 | H | 11:36AM | 0.1 | L | 04:51PM | 2.7 | H | 11:27PM | 0.8 | L |
| 10/14/2007 | Sun | 03:37AM | 3.1 | H | 12:12PM | 0.1 | L | 05:38PM | 2.5 | H | 11:43PM | 0.9 | L |
| 10/15/2007 | Mon | 03:58AM | 3.0 | H | 12:53PM | 0.1 | L | 06:36PM | 2.5 | H | 11:56PM | 1.0 | L |
| 10/16/2007 | Tue | 04:24AM | 3.0 | H | 01:42PM | 0.2 | L | 07:45PM | 2.4 | H | | | |
| 10/17/2007 | Wed | 12:15AM | 1.0 | L | 04:59AM | 2.9 | H | 02:42PM | 0.3 | L | 09:01PM | 2.3 | H |
| 10/18/2007 | Thu | 12:47AM | 1.1 | L | 05:48AM | 2.7 | H | 03:54PM | 0.3 | L | 10:18PM | 2.3 | H |
| 10/19/2007 | Fri | 02:08AM | 1.1 | L | 07:21AM | 2.6 | H | 05:03PM | 0.3 | L | 11:19PM | 2.4 | H |
| 10/20/2007 | Sat | 05:24AM | 1.1 | L | 10:00AM | 2.6 | H | 06:03PM | 0.3 | L | 11:59PM | 2.5 | H |
| 10/21/2007 | Sun | 06:26AM | 0.9 | L | 11:20AM | 2.7 | H | 06:54PM | 0.3 | L | | | |
| 10/22/2007 | Mon | 12:30AM | 2.7 | H | 07:16AM | 0.6 | L | 12:22PM | 2.9 | H | 07:40PM | 0.3 | L |
| 10/23/2007 | Tue | 12:58AM | 2.9 | H | 08:02AM | 0.4 | L | 01:17PM | 3.0 | H | 08:23PM | 0.4 | L |
| 10/24/2007 | Wed | 01:23AM | 3.1 | H | 08:48AM | 0.1 | L | 02:08PM | 3.1 | H | 09:05PM | 0.5 | L |
| 10/25/2007 | Thu | 01:49AM | 3.3 | H | 09:34AM | -0.1 | L | 02:58PM | 3.2 | H | 09:46PM | 0.6 | L |
| 10/26/2007 | Fri | 02:15AM | 3.5 | H | 10:20AM | -0.3 | L | 03:49PM | 3.1 | H | 10:27PM | 0.7 | L |

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SCHOOL NEWS

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

Great Gators for September 2007

photos thanks to Trina Mitchell

IMPORTANT DATES

- Fri, Oct 12: VOLLEYBALL home, 5:00 pm
- Thurs, Oct 18: 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
- Thurs, Nov 1: Great Gators, 9:30 am



5th & 6th Grades: Houston Brown, Savannah Oglesby, Linzy Fails, Paige Robinson-Hilton, Elena Samudio, Jessica Thomas



3rd & 4th Grade: Savannah Humphreys, Caleb Morris, Madelyn Mitchell, Logan Foss, Sindy Cifuentes (not pictured here - Marissa Hart)



Our school won all four Volleyball games on Monday!



Pre-K and K: Kyle McMillin , Mikey Rain, Savannah Weeks, Madison Hart , Destany Vanleeuwen, Jesse Goff



1st Grade: Samantha Bruscini, Ashton Smallwood, Kalen Kibodeaux, Eddie Lopez, Jay Shiver



2nd Grade: Raymond Rinehart, Bailey Richards, Ashlyn Goff, Jasmine Lucas (not pictured here - Bryce Kish, Tori Wells)



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WELCOME CENTER WELCOMES ADVERTISERS

The Chamber of Commerce has panels available for advertisers in the kiosk outside the Welcome Center in Carnestown. The kiosk was recently painted and the phone was fixed.

Other improvements include new toilets in the center. In August, there were over 1500 visitors, half of whom were from out of the US.

Phone Winnie at 695-3172

LOCAL HISTORY



Older Everglades City School students from all over Florida gathered on Saturday, October 6, for a mini-reunion. The met in the Museum and then had a tour of City Hall before lunch at the Seafood Depot.



The event was prompted by a visit from Mary Ann Jolley Thomas from Quincy, FL, to her sister June Jolley Dyches in Marco Island. Their father Judge S. S. Jolley worked in the old Courthouse here. They are seen above presenting a framed photo to the Museum.

Angels of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff



Although they stay mostly in the background, there is a hard working couple in town that we would like to recognize. They moved to Everglades City in 2001 to retire; but relaxing was not an option. Both of these individuals have been active since they moved here six years ago. If they are not fixing up their beautiful home along the Barron River, they are volunteering for various organizations. Stan Kanning is Chairman of the Board of the Everglades Community Church and was instrumental in having the building listed as an historic designation. Virginia has been an important partner with her husband in keeping the books for the Community Church. She has also served as Treasurer of the Friends of the Museum since 2003.

Stan and Virginia purchased their property in Everglades City in 1985 when Stan retired after 37 years with Exxon, just a year after Virginia had earned her degree in accounting. They moved here from Deerfield Beach but had traveled extensively after marrying in 1961. They originally met each other as teenagers; definitely a match made in heaven. They have three grown sons and two grandchildren. Stan was an original Floridian, from Lakeland, and Virginia came from North Carolina.

As they moved and traveled around Florida, they discovered the Everglades and fishing which they continue to enjoy. When they are not involved in community activities, helping out where ever and when ever is needed, they spend time visiting their children who still live Florida. Their talents are needed and well-received in this small community where every person counts.

Pastor Bob Wallace is well acquainted with the devotion of the Kannings and added these comments:

“Stan and Virginia have been a real blessing to Everglades Community Church. They continually give so unselfishly of their time and talents. Virginia serves as volunteer Treasurer and Secretary taking care of the financial books together with all that entails, and doing all of the Sunday bulletins and Newsletters and other tasks required of a church Secretary. Stan has served two years as Chairman of the Board of Governors as well as Chairman of the Trustees. His woodworking skills and other handyman skills are helping restore this sixty-seven year old structure in order to help it serve this community in the years to come. He has restored the altar, pulpit and altar chairs. The church chimes heard throughout our community he suggested to the Board of Governors be updated and they are again ringing throughout our city. He is currently working to have the church designated as an Historical Landmark of Florida. He has done so many things, from installing our new stained glass windows, repairing the plumbing, installing new supports in the attic, and installing new appliances in the kitchen of Fellowship Hall, just to mention a few of the many things he does for the church. He has been a God-send to this congregation, together with his wife Virginia. We are truly blessed to have them as parishioners, congregational leaders and friends of this community. I wholeheartedly support them being Angels of the Everglades for October.”

Thank you, Virginia and Stan, for all that you do and all that you give. You're true angels.

GATORS by Jim Conley

It is that time of year when the 50,000 alligators that inhabit the Park, I might be off in numbers but it seems that many, move out to the river mouths following the schools of mullet or whatever draws them out of where they should stay.. It is a time that they can become a nuisance and dangerous if you are not careful. Like Willie, I named him after a close Gator booster friend that had a bull gator growl that even out-did the Howler monkeys. Bill was a serious Gator fan. Back to Willie; Willie was one of those free loaders who reached 10' 3" by getting what he wanted when he wanted it. He took residence under my dock about a month ago, the opening of snook season to be exact. It was like he knew when the season would open, and where his food source would be.

Why he chose my dock, I do not know. He was there the first day I started cleaning fish and there every day there after. He stayed under the cleaning table gathering all the free hand outs until I quit dropping over fish scraps; then friendly Willie turned into a different gator. He started following our movement up and down the dock; he once tried to leap into the boat after one of my clients. Another time he came half up on the dock trying to reach some fish we had laying there. I try to coexist with nature and avoid what dangers it presents, but the situation had turned bad. I realized I had created this problem and when we stopped dropping scraps, it made the situation worst. It was too late to turn it around. The gator was upset he had no food and he obviously connected us to the source. I had hoped he would leave and move on to another food source but that was not happening. He was becoming hungrier and more aggressive every day.

I know some of you who are reading this would have already said: "The first time he popped his head out from under that cleaning bench I would have popped him; you wouldn't have to worry about him jumping up any boat after any body." I kind of felt that way too, at first, but

decided to go through the process, so we called the state for a nuisance permit. I was amazed how quickly the permit got to the trapper and how quickly he responded. It must have been the first time a nuisance permit had been drawn for Everglades City because he was not to familiar with the area and was a half hour late arriving.

It was not difficult to capture Willie, a couple of nooses, hold on tight, drag him up on the dock, tape his mouth shut, load him in the pickup unharmed. Off to another destination he went. Now I have no idea, or yeah, I guess I have an idea, what Willie was in for at his next stop, but he left here alive so I can only imagine. I did not have to witness his demise if that was to be. I think that is the way the FWC would like it handled and I liked it that way also. Although if it had been done another way, taping his jaws would have been much easier.

Several days later, I stopped at City Seafood for lunch and, of course, did not miss the opportunity to visit with Virgil who mentioned he heard about the gator and that Harold Mays said it almost got him. I told him that the gator was gone and everyone over there was free to walk the docks. Then the conversation led to why there were so many gators out at this time of year. It went from it is mating season, to abundance of mullet, then to why the mullet were so many and that they were schooling up preparing to leave to go off shore to spawn, etc. etc. It is always interesting to here Virgil's version. Then, Virgil, rubbing his cup of coffee, said; "Speaking of offshore, I had a friend of mine tell me he saw a mass of blue crabs off shore that was three miles long and a mile wide and however deep it was.

Now, I listen to Virgil most of the time and when it comes to blue crabs I would never doubt a word he said, cause he knows blue crabs better than blue crabs themselves. Then in the same breath he said; "Going back to gators, I was up at Faka Union the other day and I saw this big log floating and



GATORS *continued ...*

I went over to it and it was an alligator every bit of 19 feet long, the biggest alligator I have ever seen around here." I looked over to him expecting to see one of his grins but he was still looking at his coffee and then he reach up putting his arms in a big circle like he was reaching around a Volkswagen and said "He was this big around too." Since Virgil has been around here longer than saw grass and has seen a lot of gators I would not be going up in Faka Union in any kayaks.

According to the FWC in 2006 they received more than 21,000 complaints and nuisance alligator trappers were issued over 19,000 permits and tags and removed more than 11,000 nuisance alligators. They also advise disposing of fish scraps in the garbage. Do not throw them in the water. They say, although you are not intentionally feeding alligators, when you do this the end results will be the same. I am sure most of us do not want all the trash cans and dumpsters in Everglades City full of fish scraps, so Virgil Hand offers this suggestion: he recommends installing a large section of PVC at your cleaning bench and extend it below the water level to discard your fish scrapes. Make sure you puncture the eyes and bladder so the fish scrapes sink. This way the alligators do not connect you to their food source.

If you are having trouble with an alligator and you feel that they could be dangerous and want to resolve the problem, call (866) 392-4286. Remember the only thing predictable about an alligator is that he is unpredictable. Be careful !!

Editor's Note: According to the FWC website "*Alligators are an important part of Florida's heritage and play an important role in the ecology of our state's wetlands. A better understanding of these facts and a broader knowledge of alligator behavior will help ensure that humans and alligators can continue to coexist.*" Again, as Jim mentioned, they advise discarding fish scraps in the garbage rather than in the water. It would be wise for both residents and visitors alike to read information about living with alligators on the FWC website www.myfwc.com/gators/faq/LWA.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Triad Seafood, behind the school, will open for the season on Monday, October 15, and will be open seven days a week and start serving breakfast at 6:00 a.m. They will also have fresh stone crab claws and other fresh fish in the market.

Camellia Street Cafe on the river are back in business after their break from Tuesday through Saturday. They open at 11:00 a.m. and close at 5:00 p.m. during the week but stay until 8:00 p.m. to serve dinner on Friday and Saturday.

Roadkill Cafe now have an ATM.

Big House Coffee in Chokoloskee is closed until November.

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe in Ochopee is closed until November.



Thanks to Club Everglades for donating nine trees. Thanks also to Gordon and the City workers who dug them up at Pleasure Island and replanted them. Two of the trees are in the wooden benches in McLeod Park and the rest are in the medians around town.

ORCHID SOCIETY SALE

It's first come, first served, at the Naples Orchid Society's Annual Plant Sale. It is anticipated that from 300 to 400 orchids will be for sale at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida auditorium on **Saturday, October 20**, from 12 o'clock noon until 3:00 p.m. or until the plants are gone.

The Conservancy is located at 1450 Merrihue Drive, Naples, just north of the main Post Office off Goodlette-Frank Road.

In past years people begin to line up early and plants go fast. There is no charge for admission.

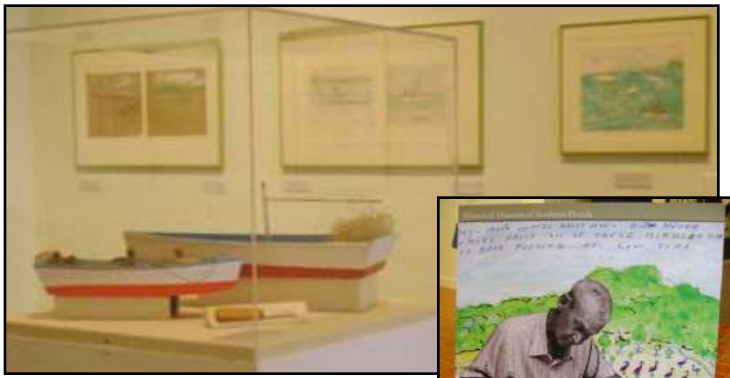
There will also be a raffle and members of the society will be present to offer information about the care and growing habits of plants. For info, phone Kit at 262-0987.

**BALLROOM DANCING FOR BEGINNERS**

A new series of classes starts on **October 18** and will be held every Thursday from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. for seven weeks at Edison Community College, 7007 Lely Cultural Parkway, Naples. Cost for the series is \$149. To register, phone the Continuing Education Office at 732-3707.

Ten Thousand Island Refuge Day

Port of the Islands is hosting a gala day on **Saturday, October 13**, with lectures beginning at 12:30 p.m. and a guest appearance by photographer Clyde Butcher. For more information and reservations, phone 353-8442.



STORTER SHOW IN MIAMI

The Historical Museum of Southern Florida held its opening reception for the Storter Collection on September 27 in Miami. The event was a big success and included live music on the plaza and wine and *hors d'oeuvres*. Inside the main lobby, visitors from all around the east coast were given the opportunity of seeing selected items from the Storter Collection for the first time. The primary theme of this exhibit was the history of the fishing, marine activity, and hurricanes during the turn of the 20th century in southwest Florida. Through Rob Storter's stories and art, people were able to see how this area of Florida has changed in the past 100 years. On display were also many of Rob's wood carving of boats and his famous fish boxes. Storter prints and cards were made available for sale in their gift shop and a table displaying various items was set up on the plaza. Several members of the Board of Directors welcomed Patty Huff and thanked her for introducing them to the Storter Collection and expressed all the positive comments that they had received. The Collection entitled **Rob Storter: Art of the Everglades** will be on display until January 20, 2008. The Historical Museum is located at 101 West Flagler Street in downtown Miami with convenient parking across the street at 50 NW 2nd Avenue. It is well worth a visit!!



MUSEUM NEWS

JoAnn Sanborn was at the opening reception on Saturday, September 29, for her exhibit of Glades paintings in the Museum of the Everglades. Her pictures will hang in the Museum for the month of October and everyone is welcome to stop by and see them (admission is complimentary).



On the previous day, there was a surprise outing for hard-working Museum assistant Martha Schramm when she was taken out for a birthday lunch.



Off the Shelf Book Review

by Patricia Huff

As a history buff, I found *Seasons of Real Florida* by Jeff Klinkenberg to be right up my alley. It is a series of articles about our State, the "real" Florida, or what many of us would like to think of as the "real" Florida: the Florida of days gone by of small towns, natural wonders and the culture of the different regions. Jeff travels all over Florida, introducing us to new people and places. My husband and I have biked throughout this State but there is so much to see and learn, as presented in this interesting book. I found myself rushing to my Florida Atlas to find out where a particular town was located and planning my next trip.

Although many of us from this area will recognize the stories of Mr. Watson, the Smallwood Store, and Clyde Butcher's art, there is so much more to explore in this area and throughout Florida. For example, I can't wait to try some Bar-B-Q at Peebles in Lakeland (remember, I'm from Tennessee which is famous for its Bar-B-Q).

The author divides his book into the four seasons. Many winter residents don't realize that we actually have "seasons" here in Florida, but we do. Jeff Klinkenberg grew up in Miami and is now a writer for the *St. Petersburg Times*. His love of Florida shines through and delights the readers with story after story. This book is a real treat for all of us who cherish this land and its people.

MEMORIES

“The Bobber-Cat and the Splish-Splash”
by Barbara Hoffman Daniels

My son came to spend a weekend with me and brought with him a friends from the city who had never had any experiences with the wilderness and was hoping to have a sighting of some sort to take back to his friends.

After supper we missed him and found him sitting out on the front porch in the dark staring toward the gravel road. When we walked out there he “shushed” us and said there was something in the shadows and it was bobbing up and down. The utility light was far enough away that there wasn't a real clear view, but as my son and I knew more about the animals, we finally made it out to be a bob-cat pouncing on a snake, or maybe a rat. The cat became aware of us watching him and sauntered off into the night. Our guest was really excited.

The next night he sat on the porch in the dark again and all of a sudden he came in and said he had heard a loud splash and thrashing about 50 feet from the house. It was so loud he was startled enough that he wouldn't go back out onto the porch. We told him it was most likely a ‘gator that had caught his supper over on the banks of the pond and then jumped back in with it. Or, maybe it was two ‘gators mating since it was mating season.

I can't help but believe that our guest felt he had had all of the exciting adventures in the wild that he wanted and when we told him about the bears invasion, he never visited again. That very porch had the screens torn out by bears three different time.

But “Aw Shucks”, that's just the way it is out here.

Barbara Hoffman Daniels grew up in Everglades City. She lived for over thirty years in the Big Cypress where she had the experience of seeing what our animals are really like. We will feature more of her stories in future issues.



Every once in a while you will receive a dollar bill with red lettering stamped on it that says “FREE Currency Tracking Project”. No, it is not a hoax. There are over 100,000,000 bills in the system with a value of over \$630 million.

When you go to www.wheresgeorge.com you can see how the bill has traveled around the country and record your own ZIP code to document that it has been here. If you register as a user, the website will issue reports of all the serial numbers you have entered.

This is a fun project which does not cost a cent.

Adopt-a-Soldier for Christmas!

Collier County Sheriff's Office and Military Mom's of Collier County are collecting gifts to send to our soldiers overseas and have set up a tree in City Hall under which you can drop your contributions.

The boxes they make up to send will also include a heart-shaped camo-print pillow made by local children.

If you put your name and address with your gift, it will go onto the sponsor's sheet for each box so the soldier receiving it feels he or she is in touch with real people and can write to thank you.

Cash donations and gift cards from major stores are also welcome.

The organizers hope to send 500 boxes. The deadline for gifts is **Thursday, November 8**.

For more info, phone Christa at the local Sheriff's substation in Carnestown at 695-2007. And, if you know the name of a soldier serving overseas who should be on the list, let her know.

SUGGESTED ITEMS

Baby Wipes, Disposable Cameras, Eye Drops, Fly Paper, Headbands, Flea Collars, Insect Repellent, Sunburn Lotions with aloe, Duct Tape, Antibacterial wipes, Battery Powered fans, Squirt Guns/Balloons, Beef Jerky, Crystal Light Mixes, Hard Candy (individually wrapped), Small Size Toiletries, Sewing Kit, Book light, Ziplock Baggies, Sudoku (small), Chapstick, Waterproof Sunscreen, Feminine products, Shoe Insoles, Gold bond Powder, Air Fresheners (such as car fresheners for freshening boots),Batteries (AA & AAA), Gatorade mix, Q-tips, Nose Spray, Energy/Power Bars, Stationary Items & Pens, Dental Care Items (floss, Brushes, Paste, etc), PopTarts, Tylenol (individual packets), Playing Cards.

LUXURY ITEMS

Handheld video games, DVD Movies, Music CD's, Game Boys, Water Misters (Spray Bottle Type), Beanie Babies, Stuffed Animals, School Supplies for local children, Books, Pre-paid Phone cards.

UNSUITABLE ITEMS

Chocolate or items that will melt or go bad (Tootsie rolls are ok). No Pork Products, No Alcohol, or anything in an aerosol can.
When in doubt please ask.



SNOOK CLASSIFIED

MUSEUM DISPLAY CASES. Beautifully designed with wood frames and Plexiglas windows, \$500 each, from Friends of the Museum of the Everglades, Phone 695-2397.

GOODLAND - FOR SALE: Water Front Deep Canal, Quick Access to Gulf and 10,000 Islands. 2-bed furnished manufactured home on 50' x 99' lot; New Dock ready for boat lift; Walk to Restaurants & Shops. 613 Sunset Dr, Goodland. \$519,000 (*reduced!*). Call Ed at 239-728-8440.

2004 Land Rover Discovery SE7. All the bells and whistles including a towing package and extended warranty. Dark green with tan interior, 53,400 miles and in very good condition. Moving out of the state and must sell. Asking \$20,860 OBO. Call 695-4785.

HUGE MOVING SALE, Friday, Saturday, Sunday (October 26-28). Big House Coffee in Chokoloskee. Furniture, household items, tools, clothes, books, artwork, everything! Store will be open for a close-out inventory sale: 60% off all store items.

Order your needed MARY KAY PRODUCTS. Available by order now. Call 239-695-4499x105 Myrna Baier.

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ADVERTISER SPOT-LIGHT

"Kayak Fishing is the fastest growing segment of the sports fishing industry", according to Capt. Charles Wright who is pleased to launch his new website with this new ad. He says kayak fishing is inexpensive, quiet, eco-friendly and unobtrusive, and is enjoyed by all ages. Using dedicated kayak transport boats, guests are ferried deep into Everglades National Park for a day of guided fishing in the most remote areas of Park yet they are back in time for dinner at a local restaurant. Phone for info at 695-9107.

JOBS VACANT

Camellia Street Grill needs help this season beginning November.
Phone Naiara at 289-8392 or email camelliastreetgrill@yahoo.com

Everglades National Park is looking for a student (college or high school) to work part-time (16 to 24 hours per week) from November to April at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center in ECity. Call Sue at 695-3311.

PUT YOUR JOB ADS IN THE RAPPER ...
no charge! phone us at 695-2397

The MULLET RAPPER

WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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

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