

# The MULLET RAPPER

## WHAT's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2007

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume I • Issue #39



### RAPPER – FIRST BIRTHDAY

We are a year old! The original *Rapper* was first published on October 20, 2006, to replace *The Everglades Echo* which closed in September.

The *Rapper* was founded by Patricia Huff of Snook Publications who had started the monthly *What's Happening Around Town* over six years ago.

In April, the two combined. The new *Rapper*, which contains many of the feature articles and the popular calendar from *W.H.A.T.*, is issued every two weeks. A welcome addition has been tide tables.

Thanks for all the support we've received from the public, both over the counter and by subscription. And, thanks to our advertisers and to the contributors for their photos, articles and news.

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FEATURE: "BOBCAT", page 8

## SUPER SATURDAY October 27

### TRICK OR TREAT McLeod Park



5:00-6:00 pm  
Kids Party (12 & under)

6:00-8:00 pm  
Free Cookout

9:00-10:00 pm  
Water Balloons

### HUGE MOVING SALE Big House Coffee Chokoloskee



Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
(October 26, 27, 28)

**Furniture, household items, tools, clothes, books, artwork, gift shop inventory!**

### POOR BOY TOURNAMENT Catch-Em & Eat-Em phone 695-2628



7:00 am at Glades Haven Marina  
prizes for Snook, Redfish, Trout  
Entry fee \$50 (\$20 for kids)  
includes Tshirt and BBQ

### MOBILE PET VET phone 777-PETS



McLeod Park, ECity  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Copeland  
2:00-4:00 pm

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Sammy Hamilton thanked the *Rapper* for all it has done in the past year because the community needs its own newspaper. Local people now depend on the *Rapper* to keep them up-to-date on local events with impartial and professional reports.

The Mayor also said that he had talked at length with U. S. Water and that the problem with the filters had been fixed. There would be more adjustments to the system if our water was not clear.

He will give a further report on **Tuesday, November 6**, at the City Council meeting.

## SHERIFF'S REPORT

Lt Mark Milligan told the *Rapper* that there had been several thefts recently, mostly due to unsecured premises and vehicles. For example, a boat with the keys in it at Glades Haven was taken but later found off Chokoloskee and a large unlocked charter vessel on the Barron River had electronic equipment stolen.

He also said parents should be vigilant when their children have access to the Internet and should monitor what sites they visit. Child predators often pose as another child in chat rooms to gain trust.

On a lighter note, the deputies will be doing "special patrol" at McLeod Park on October 27 at 5:00 p.m. – they will be giving out treats during the Halloween party.

○ new moon

# 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>
OCT 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.1 Voter Registration see p.3	27 Local Fishing Tourament see p.1 Mobile Pet Vet see p.1 Halloween Party 5-10 pm see p.1
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  <b>CLOCKS CHANGE</b>  Museum Reception 2-4 pm see p. 7
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 Havana Cafe 8 am  ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am see p.7	8 Flu Shots 1 - 3:30 pm Chok P.O. McLeod Park see p.3  Adopt-a-Soldier see p.3	○ 9	10 Safety Rally Port of the Islands
11	12 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm OCFD Board Fire Station, 7 pm	13 Betterment Association Comm. Center 6 pm	14 Ladies Coffee Everglades Scoop 8 am	15 Lions Club Business Mtg 5:30 pm  Copeland Civic 7 pm	16	17 Fall Festival Chokoloskee Church of God 9 am to 3 pm
18	19 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	20 Reach Out Comm. Church 8:30 a.m. SAC meeting School, 3 pm	21 Ladies Coffee Roadkill Cafe 8 am	22 <u>Thanksgiving</u>	23 Clyde Butcher all weekend 10 am - 5 pm	● 24

THRIFT SHOP: Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

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: 10/25 (noon-2 pm) 10/29 (9-11 am) 11/2 (9-11 am) 11/6 (3-5 pm) 11/8 (noon-2 pm) 11/9 (noon-2 pm)

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

**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***

**SOLDIER'S HOLIDAY GIFTS**



*Why is there a Christmas tree in City Hall?*

Because, Collier County Sheriffs Office is collecting gifts for soldiers serving overseas.

You can select a name off the tree or just buy general items from the list or donate cash which will be used to purchase more goodies.

Some of the suggested presents are: toiletries, batteries (AA and AAA), playing cards, stationary & pens, books, and hard candies (no chocolate which will melt). Nothing in aerosol cans is acceptable.

The DEADLINE for gifts is **Thursday, November 8**. If you have questions, phone Christa at the Carnestown substation, 695-2007.



**Two years ago this week, Carol Moseman took this photo of Buckner Avenue under water after Hurricane Wilma stuck the area.**

**JEWELRY AT YARD SALE**

Every Tuesday and Wednesday from 9 am to 6 pm on SR-29 in Jerome there will be crafts and jewelry for sale. Phone Joan at 695-2559.

**RESTAURANT NEWS**

**Everglades SCOOP, south of the Circle, is now serving breakfast at 6:30 a.m and will stay open daily until 6:00 p.m. The menu includes bacon, eggs, ham, sausage, french toast, and pancakes.**

**Triad Seafood, behind the school, are serving meals on Friday and Saturday evenings until 8:00 p.m. The special Friday is Grouper, Saturday is Prime Rib. They also have stone crab claws and other fresh seafood in the market.**

**Havana Cafe is now open at 8:00 a.m. for breakfast every day except Monday when they are closed.**

**OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

- 10/11/07: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 10/11/07: Emer. Med., Everglades Fire Station
- 10/11/07: Vehicle Fire, 61m I-75
- 10/11/07: Assault, Everglades City
- 10/12/07: Vehicle Accident, 68m I-75
- 10/13/07: Vehicle Accident, 81m I-75
- 10/14/07: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 & US-41
- 10/14/07: Vehicle Fire, US-41 & Birdon Rd
- 10/18/07: Brush Fire, US-41 & Port of the Isles
- 10/18/07: Vehicle Accident, 76m I-75
- 10/19/07: Kidney Stones, US-41 2m West of SR-29
- 10/19/07: Unknown Medical Problem, 76m I-75
- 10/19/07: Brush Fires, Union Rd at Miller Extension
- 10/19/07: Trash Fire, Miller Extension
- 10/20/07: Vehicle Accident, 67m I-75
- 10/21/07: Vehicle Accident, 64m I-75
- 10/21/07: Vehicle Accident, 4m West of SR-29 on US-41
- 10/21/07: Vehicle Accident, 81m I-75
- 10/21/07: Allergic Reaction, Everglades Fire Station
- 10/22/07: Lacerated Wrist, Everglades Fire Station
- 10/22/07: Headache, Ochopee
- 10/23/07: Vehicle Accident, 53m I-75
- 10/23/07: Chest Pains, Chokoloskee Island
- 10/23/07: Unknown Medical Problem, Chokoloskee Island

**FLU SHOTS**

Collier County Health Department will be giving Flu vaccinations (\$25, Medicare Part B accepted) on **Thursday, November 8**, in McLeod Park and in Chokoloskee from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. They will also have Pneumonia Vaccine available. For info, phone 239-658-7300.

**New hours for the Thrift Shop are Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 11 am to 3 pm.**

**TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER**

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

10/26/2007	Fri	02:15AM	3.5	H	10:20AM	-0.3	L	03:49PM	3.1	H	10:27PM	0.7	L
10/27/2007	Sat	02:44AM	3.6	H	11:08AM	-0.4	L	04:44PM	2.9	H	11:07PM	0.8	L
10/28/2007	Sun	03:18AM	3.6	H	11:58AM	-0.4	L	05:46PM	2.7	H	11:48PM	0.9	L
10/29/2007	Mon	03:57AM	3.6	H	12:50PM	-0.3	L	06:54PM	2.5	H			
10/30/2007	Tue	12:32AM	1.0	L	04:43AM	3.4	H	01:47PM	-0.2	L	08:06PM	2.4	H
10/31/2007	Wed	01:26AM	1.0	L	05:49AM	3.1	H	02:51PM	0.0	L	09:20PM	2.4	H
11/01/2007	Thu	02:47AM	1.0	L	07:33AM	2.8	H	04:00PM	0.2	L	10:34PM	2.4	H
11/02/2007	Fri	04:24AM	1.0	L	09:12AM	2.7	H	05:09PM	0.3	L	11:26PM	2.5	H
11/03/2007	Sat	05:45AM	0.8	L	10:40AM	2.6	H	06:09PM	0.4	L	11:57PM	2.5	H
11/04/2007	Sun	05:47AM	0.6	L	10:56AM	2.6	H	06:00PM	0.5	L	11:22PM	2.6	H
11/05/2007	Mon	06:35AM	0.5	L	11:56AM	2.6	H	06:44PM	0.6	L	11:46PM	2.7	H
11/06/2007	Tue	07:17AM	0.3	L	12:43PM	2.6	H	07:24PM	0.6	L			
11/07/2007	Wed	12:10AM	2.9	H	07:55AM	0.2	L	01:21PM	2.6	H	08:00PM	0.7	L
11/08/2007	Thu	12:35AM	3.0	H	08:31AM	0.1	L	01:56PM	2.6	H	08:34PM	0.8	L
11/09/2007	Fri	12:58AM	3.0	H	09:07AM	-0.1	L	02:31PM	2.6	H	09:05PM	0.8	L

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---

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Manager

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

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# SCHOOL NEWS

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561 website: [www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg](http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg)

## IMPORTANT DATES

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

**Wed, Oct 31:** Early Release

**Thurs, Nov 1:** Great Gators, 9:30 am

**Tues, Nov 20:** SAC, 3:00 pm



### From Savannah's Eyes

At school there is a program for 5<sup>th</sup> grade; it's called Junior Deputies. It is a very important job. Our job is to be a good hall monitor by looking out for kids who run in the halls. We also stack chairs at every assembly. We are recognized at Great Gator for the great jobs we do. Every morning we go and put up the American flag and every afternoon we take it down. We have a lot of jobs to do. I am proud to be a Junior Deputy and to help our school. You have to be honest, respectful, responsible, and helpful to the students. That's why we all love to be Junior Deputies.



Names of Junior Deputies are: Nic Jones, Houston Brown, Alana Alaganastino, Savannah Oglesby, Ana Roland. We are all proud of our jobs!

*Savannah Oglesby is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Everglades City School and a regular contributor to this paper.*

## BOOK FAIR BLIZZARD

**Nov 2 to Nov 9, 7:30 am to 3:30 pm**

**Family event days:**

**Media Center open until 4:30 on Mon 11/5 and Wed 11/7**



***Come along during the week and select books as holiday presents for your young relatives and friends.***



5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades were the winners for the October Accelerated Readers Program, which is sponsored by the Media Center and awarded to the class who accumulates the most AR points. They win 'Goldie' the Goldfish for the month. The slogan for the program is 'Reading is Golden'. The winning class is also given a poster that hangs on their door and goldfish snacks. Mrs Mitchell in the Media Center has bought an aquarium for 'Goldie'.

## School Advisory Council

A special thanks to all the teachers, students, parents and community members who attended the recent SAC meeting held in the Media Center. The Council approved of the students wearing uniforms beginning the school year 2008-09. Mr. Jones reported that a standardized sub-committee composed of parents from all school levels will be formed to identify the clothing specifications for the uniforms (this could also include footwear). This committee will make recommendations to the Collier County School Board no later than March 2008 for approval.

Congratulations are in order for our school for receiving \$13,000+ for increasing our school grade from a D to a C+. A committee composed of teachers and staff recommended to SAC how these funds should be dispersed. It was recommended and approved that Teachers that were here last year and stayed on this year would receive a bonus of \$600 each; for the teachers who left, they would receive \$325 and the new teachers arriving this year, received \$325. Teaching Assistants received \$200 and Office Staff \$100 each. Other gift certificates in the amount of \$50 each were given to the cafeteria staff, bus drivers, and custodial workers. Congratulations to all of you!!

The next SAC meeting is on **Tuesday, November 20**, when the agenda will include new officers.



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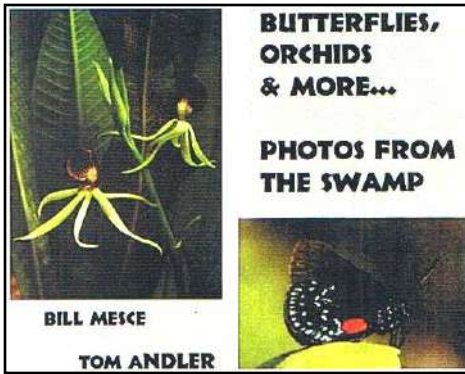


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**PHOTOS FROM  
THE SWAMP**

BILL MESCE

TOM ANDLER

## LOCAL PHOTOS AT THE MUSEUM

Bill Mesce of Copeland and Tom Andler of Chokoloskee are the featured photographers during November at the Museum of the Everglades.

Everyone is invited to an informal reception to meet the artists on **Saturday, November 3**, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided by the Friends of the Museum.

The Friends would like to hear from Members who will serve on the Board of Directors this year and attend meetings once a month. Phone Patty, 695-2397.

## LOCAL HISTORY

The Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP) has a board meeting on **Wednesday, November 7**, at 10:00 a.m. in their office on second floor of City Hall where the Historical Library is housed. The meeting is open to everyone. The agenda includes Historic Designations for buildings (see article on page 8) and plans for events during the coming season. For info, phone ESHP secretary Marya at 695-2905.

### What's the Difference?

We have been asked several times about the difference between **Friends of the Museum of the Everglades (FME)** and the **Everglades Society for Historic Preservation (ESHP)**.

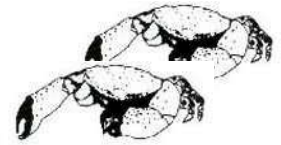
*Briefly, FME is the support group for the Museum of the Everglades (part of the County Museum system) whereas ESHP focuses on the entire Everglades City area.*

Both groups are interested in local history but ESHP's by-laws allow it to have a broader scope of activity.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Crab Pie

by Betty Campbell



Now that stone crab season is here, we found this recipe in the original cookbook entitled *Reach-Out Everglades and Cook* published by Reach Out in 1997. Betty Campbell was a long time resident of Plantation Island with her late husband Bob before moving to Jacksonville a few years ago to be closer to her family. We miss her but are still able to enjoy her recipes!

1 deep dish pie crust	3 TBS Sour Cream
½ cup Chopped Celery	1 lb Crab Meat
2 TBS Chopped Onion	½ cup Grated Cheese
1 TBS Butter	Salt, Pepper, Worcestershire Sauce
3 Eggs	to taste
3 TBS Mayonnaise	

Bake pie crust at 400° for 3 minutes. Remove from oven and prick with fork.

Bake 5 more minutes.

Sauté celery and onion in butter. Add eggs, mayonnaise, sour cream, crab meat, grated cheese, salt, pepper and Worcestershire sauce.

Bake at 350° for 35 minutes. Enjoy !!



### Off the Shelf - Florida Fiction

by Marya Repko

Here's another funky Florida detective with a passion for the environment and a detestation of violence but a way of coping with it when necessary. E.C. Ayers sets his stories about Tony Lowell around St Petersburg but wanders into Collier County to chase panther hunters and as far as Palm Beach to dig up the sordid history of a respected first family and their political hangers-on. His side-kick Perry, last of the Seminoles (or maybe the Creeks), is paramilitary-trained but keeps getting shot while our hero apologizes and works on his ancient sailboat between adventures. An unlikely alliance is a female lieutenant in the local police force who is always properly dressed in designer clothes but takes risks to help Lowell follow his hunches.

Ayres won the St. Martin's Press First Best Private Eye Novel Contest in 1992 with *Hour of the Manatee* and went on to publish *Eye of the Gator*, *Night of the Panther*, and *Lair of the Lizard*. His jaundiced eye describes a bent Superior Court judge as having "protected developers, the lifeblood of Florida's non-agrarian economy, from relentless assaults by environmental groups and other ill-advised crazies determined to stop growth and development at all cost." But, his humor also shows through when he describes a man refusing to wear glasses because he "was not gonna encumber his face with a contraption hanging from his nose."

The author was a writer and producer for film and television in New York and Los Angeles before returning to Florida. He says on the Internet that a fifth Tony Lowell book is percolating. However, he has moved to China and his publications seem to be of a more serious nature these days. I'm glad that at least four of his well-crafted detective stories made it into print.

## HISTORIC DESIGNATIONS

by Patricia Huff

History is a study of the past and historic preservation is a way to save older buildings.

According to our Land Development Code (LDC) in Everglades City, a building can be declared historic if it is at least 50 years old and has historic value related to the area before or during the city's development. We are fortunate that so many of our original buildings built by Barron Collier in the 1920's are still intact and an important part of our heritage. Despite hurricane damage and over-development in many parts of South Florida, Everglades City has maintained its unique character, primarily because owners here understand the value of preserving their homes.

Recently, the Community Church on the Circle was recognized as "historic." In addition to the Church, several areas within the city limits are designated "historic." These are Everglades City School property, homes at 205 and 207 North Storter Avenue adjacent to the Rod & Gun Club which is also in the historic district, the Everglades Spa & Lodge property (Bank of Everglades), the Museum of the Everglades (old laundry building), McLeod Park, Everglades City Hall, and Sunset Lodge (Outward Bound) across the river.

If an owner of a building wishes to be listed as historic, a request should be submitted to the City Clerk; this will then be presented to the City Council and, if approved, a proclamation will be written and signed by the Mayor and City Clerk. If a home owner or business is outside the city limits and wishes to be given an "historic designation" by Collier County, an application petitioning the County Commissioners must be completed and submitted to the Historical Preservation Board of Collier County.

The benefits of an historic designation include possible historic rehabilitation tax credit and official recognition by the City and/or County. The building would be protected from damage, destruction, relocation or exportation. Ordinary repairs and maintenance do not need prior approval. However, additions or changes to the structure would need to go before the appropriate office (City Council for Everglades City and the Historical Preservation Board for Collier County) for approval.

The highest accolade a building can achieve is to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places which is a federal designation. The Bank and Laundry buildings and the Smallwood Store have achieved this honor. An application for City Hall is in progress.

For more information about historic designations, contact Patty Huff (695-2397) or Marya Repko (695-2905) at the Everglades Society for Historic Preservation in City Hall, Dottie Joiner (695-3781), City Clerk, for Everglades City in City Hall, or Melissa Zone (403-2400) in Zoning & Land Development in Collier County.



CONGRATULATIONS to The Ivey House for being the *first* lodging establishment in Collier County to receive a "Green Lodging Certification" by the State of Florida. The Florida *Green Lodging* Program was established in 2004 by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the intent of recognizing and rewarding environmentally conscientious lodging facilities in the state. Through this rapidly growing program DEP encourages the lodging industry to conserve and protect Florida's natural resources. The Florida *Green Lodging* Program is unique in that it covers an all-inclusive list of environmental initiatives that are specific to the Florida environment. For more information, visit [www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging](http://www.dep.state.fl.us/greenlodging).

## WOMEN OF CHARACTER

The Friends of Collier County Public Library are presenting a lecture series in 2008 by best-selling female authors. The schedule is:

- Jan 28 Sara Paretsky
- Feb 11 Kristy Kiernan
- Mar 10 Prudy Taylor Board
- Mar 31 Linda Hooper
- Apr 7 Mary Alice Monroe

Reservations are required and places go fast. The cost is \$50 for each lecture (\$70 with lunch) but there are series discounts and special prices for Friends members. For info, phone 262-8135.

## MARCO OUTDOOR ARTISTS

Although they have already started their weekly forays to various locations in the county, this painting group welcomes people at all levels of ability. As leader Phyllis Pransky wrote "We inspire each other; we learn from one another." She also advises painters to document the sites on the backs of their pictures because "one day the paintings will be looked on as authentic history." For more info, phone the Art League of Marco at 394-4221 or see <http://www.phyllispranskyartist.com/windowschedule.htm>.







## Fishing Report

by  
**Capt. Bill Lindsay**  
[www.chokoloskeefishing.com](http://www.chokoloskeefishing.com)

Warmer than normal weather through October produced some pretty good fishing. Schools of mullet were moving up and down the coast and tarpon, jacks and snook were mixed in with them. I fished in the back country and caught lots of small snook, several nice Jewfish (Goliath Grouper) and even a barracuda in Last Huston Bay. Captain Dave Prickett caught some big snook and redfish this week. Both Captain Tim Brady and Dave told me they had more strikes on cut mullet and ladyfish than on live bait. Tim also caught some big Jewfish and Dave caught two nice tripletail on cut bait in shallow water. I spoke to several other fishermen that did well on trout on the grass flats. For those of you that enjoy blue crabbing, I have heard that although there are plenty around, they are on the small size.

*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.*



## GUIDED WALKS IN THE FAK

The Friends of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve have announced their schedule of guided swamp walks for the season. They will take place on the first three Saturdays in each month, beginning on November 17. One of the leaders is Bill Mesce whose photos can be seen at the Museum (see page 7).

Swamp walks are strenuous and you may be wading in cool water up to your waist for half a day. Reservations are required. The cost is \$40 (\$35 members). For info, phone 695-2860 or see website [www.FriendsOfFakahatchee.org](http://www.FriendsOfFakahatchee.org).



**David Child, Ochopee Check Station Operator, caught a 31-inch snook while fishing with Capt. Houston Brown at Outdoor Resorts in Chokoloskee.**



## Swamp Tales

by Bob N. Wallace

One of the rare birds you want to look for while you are here in the Everglades is the roseate spoonbill *Ajaia ajaja*. No other bird is like this bird. I have only seen two and I have lived in this area twenty-five years. I saw an immature roseate spoonbill in the canal behind our house the first of October. When it is young, its bill is yellowish, as are its eyes. The plumage of a roseate spoonbill is white with some pale pink showing on about half of its body. It has a white feathered head.

A roseate spoonbill is a wading bird with a body about twenty-eight inches long and a wingspan of fifty-three inches. It has a long neck, which it extends in flight, and its head has a long spatulate bill that appears to be a spatula for turning pancakes on a griddle, hence its name.

Caribbean flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber ruber* are also wading, long-necked, pink-bodied birds; but they are not to be confused with a roseate spoonbill. While in Florida, you will see plastic flamingos adorning many yards, in paperweights and snow globes in gift shops. In Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass*, Alice uses flamingos as croquet mallets and for years ornithologists, or those who study birds, thought they were more like ducks or storks. Finally, they put them in a category all by themselves.

A question often asked is how these birds get their pink color. Well, their diet consists of diatoms, seeds, blue-green algae, crustaceans, and mollusks they filter out of the water that is high in alpha, beta-carotene, as well as shrimp, which gives them their beautiful pink color. Flamingos live in mangrove swamps, tidal flats, and sandy islands in the intertidal zone. The depth of the water is especially important for flamingos, not only for feeding but also for nesting. So, look for them standing in the shallow waters of the Everglades.

When a flamingo eats, it uses its large beak to filter small food items from the water. It lowers its head into the water, upside-down and moves its head from side to side, collecting the food/water mixture. A spiny, piston-like tongue acts to pump the water mixture past the tooth like ridges on the outside of the beak, which act as strainers to remove the food particles from the water.

This is probably more than you ever wanted to know about these two birds, but it is an exciting moment when you see either of them. I know it is for me.



## ALWAYS THE UNEXPECTED

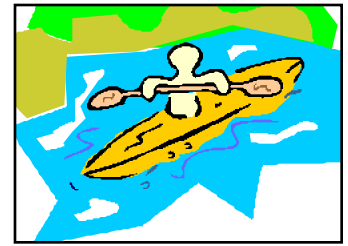
by Captain Steve Huff

A few weeks ago on a clear mid-day run through the backcountry with my clients for the day, we came upon a bobcat swimming across the bay. My angler grabbed his camera and snapped these photos. Seeing a bobcat for me is a somewhat unusual occurrence. This animal is capable of swimming quite rapidly. Upon our approach, he aborted his apparent intended direction and headed for the closest available shoreline. He then climbed out on this buttonwood snag and posed for a few moments for this photograph. In forty years of guiding trips in the Everglades I have encountered bobcats on perhaps a half dozen occasions; however, I believe there are many more than I realize. This animal was approximately three feet long and in his sopping-wet condition appeared to be quite scrawny. A day spent pursuing fish is not always about the fishing. What a joy to see wildlife in their natural habitat!



Thanks to Bill Hassett for sharing these dramatic photographs with us.

## Paddling after the Calusas



The Great Calusa Blueway is a system over 100 miles of waterway trails marked out for kayaks. It covers The Caloosahatchee River and tributaries, Estero Bay, and the bays of Sanibel, Captiva, and Pine Island. Maps, GPS coordinates, and background info are available at [www.greatcalusablueway.com](http://www.greatcalusablueway.com).

A festival is planned for the week of October 27 to November 4. Events include kayak races, fishing tournament, exhibit of boats, guided tours, lectures, coastal cleanup, moonlight paddles, and many other fun things. For more info, phone (239) 433-3855 or see [www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com](http://www.calusabluewaypaddlingfestival.com).

If you want kayaking activity closer to home, we have the Wilderness Waterway in the Everglades National Park and Collier County is working on its own Blueway (the website is [www.paradisecoastblueway.com](http://www.paradisecoastblueway.com)) which should be officially launched soon. Local kayak tours are provided by Captain Charles Wright, the Ivey House, and the National Park, among others.

## Rare Local Bird Surveyed



The Cape Sable Seaside Sparrow, a federally Endangered Species, only lives in the southern tip of Florida and its population has recently been counted by the Everglades National Park.

This tiny bird (Latin name *Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*) is only 5-inches long and is found in our sawgrass marshes. It should not be confused with the Gulf Coast version which is less greenish.

The ENP survey found that there was a small increase in numbers since 2006, but there are still only an estimated 3184 compared with almost twice that in the 1980s. Unfortunately, the area west of Shark River Slough had a significant decrease. For more info, phone (305) 224-4200.

## ECity on TV



"Taste for Adventure" episode #203, featuring Collier County/Everglades City destinations (including Chokoloskee Charters, No Free Lunch Charters, City Seafood Cafe, Big House Coffee, Everglades Spa & Lodge), will premiere on FINE LIVING Network on Saturday, November 3 at 9:30 p.m. The show will repeat on Sunday, November 11 at the same time and again on Saturday, November 17 at 4:00 p.m.

## FORREST HARMON, 1914-2007



He was an avid fisherman, a supreme competitor in everything he did, a true entrepreneur in business and in life, a man of decision. If someone worked harder, he worked smarter. If someone worked smarter, he worked harder. But, above all, he was a gentleman. He passed on these virtues and values to his two sons, Don and Larry, and to other people he encountered.

A packed Everglades Community Church heard tributes from friends, neighbors, and relatives for Forrest Harmon who died on October 14 at age 93. He grew up "hard" in rural Kentucky, learnt by his mistakes, but loved to make a deal and did not hesitate to jump into a situation rather than just sitting back. He never gave up; he would do something (buy, sell, have an auction).

He had huge charisma, was tough, and had incredible foresight. And, he was quick. As son Don recalled, he could look over a job and give an accurate estimate in five minutes (after Don and brother Larry had spent ages measuring it all out and had come up with the same cost). Don also said "he had perspicacity" ... he could see the big picture, had a keen judgment, knew clearly what should be done, was acutely perceptive.

Don also recalled that when fishing (Forrest had caught bass but when he discovered snook, that was the manna from heaven), he said the first five casts were worth the next 25; if nothing showed up, they moved the boat elsewhere. And, competitive? They fished for the biggest, the best, the most, and even the worst. If the boys caught a catfish, they had to hook two snapper to make up for it!

Ochopee neighbor, Donny Barton, recalled how Forrest had sold him some land and eventually, after many loads of gravel that just sunk into the mire out there, Donny built a house and wanted to hook into Forrest's water line. Forrest allowed him to connect up ... he was a "big man", an honorable man who would help his neighbor even though they'd had their disagreements.

Harold Hall, formerly of Plantation Island, grew up near Forrest (although they did not know each other then) and remembered how the Kentuckian had decided that if the pre-fab cabins at early Oak Ridge could be put up, they

could also be disassembled so Forrest bought them and had them reconstructed in a low-cost housing project. Hall recalled that Forrest and their wives always wanted to go the Derby but the closest they got was watching it on the big screen at Naples race track. He said, in the local vernacular, "you done good" and then read Tennyson's poem "Crossing the Bar" in remembrance of his friend.

Chris Ammerman thanked Forrest for being such an active part of the Church, for being such a wonderful gentleman, and for teaching goodness by example. There was also a reminiscence from Port of the Islands about snook, best not repeated in print, and a tribute by local businessman Doug House who thanked the Harmon family for being so trustworthy and for the great relationship they had; he felt he go always go to them. Finally, Glenna Potter (who had provided moving music for the service) said that Forrest touched so many lives and had such personal integrity.

After the formal service, conducted by Reverend Bob Wallace, the congregation gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a buffet and get-together.



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**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/week) from November to April at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center. Call Sue at 695-3311.

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

*Everglades Area Chamber of Commerce, Inc.*



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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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