

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2008

© 2008, Snook Publications

P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume II • Issue #47

The current annual Seafood Festival was first held in 1973 to raise money for the playground. But, long before that, the Collier County News announced in 1937:

CELEBRATION AND FISH FRY AT EVERGLADES CITY

Starting Wednesday, February third, and continuing through to Saturday, February sixth, the first Annual Celebration and Fish Fry will be held at Everglades City.

Free vaudeville, free sandwiches and attractions to all. Among the stellar attractions will be a Ferris Wheel, Mery-Go-Round, ball games, free acts, such as "POPEYE, THE SAILOR," in person; also in person will be the famous newspaper characters of "MAGGIE JIGGS and SKIPPY" and various other vaudeville specialties.

This will be held out in the open opposite the Railroad Station at Everglades City, and the committee in charge want the public to feel that they are welcome to participate in this celebration.

COME AND SPEND THE FOUR DAYS IN FLORIDA'S PARADISE!

CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Local History	p. 9
Tides	p. 3	Feline Friends	p. 9
Events	p. 3	Church History	p. 10
School	p. 5	Fishing Report	p. 10
Recipe	p. 7	Memories	p. 10
Angel	p. 7	VIP Report	p. 11

FEATURE: "JT's is Back!", page 5

Everglades Seafood Festival

The 35th annual festival starts on Friday, February 1st with family night and continues over the weekend with a line-up of entertainment and activity. There will be about 150 food and crafts booths plus carnival rides.

Friday, February 1: Family Night

5:00 pm - Parker Oglesby

6:00 pm - Ronnie Morgan

11:00 pm - close

Saturday, February 2:

10:00 am - Opening Ceremony

11:00 am - Parker Oglesby

12:30 pm - Danni Lee

2:30 pm - Ronnie Morgan

4:00 pm - Mark Chestnutt

5:30 pm - Joe Diffie

7:00 pm - close

Sunday, February 3:

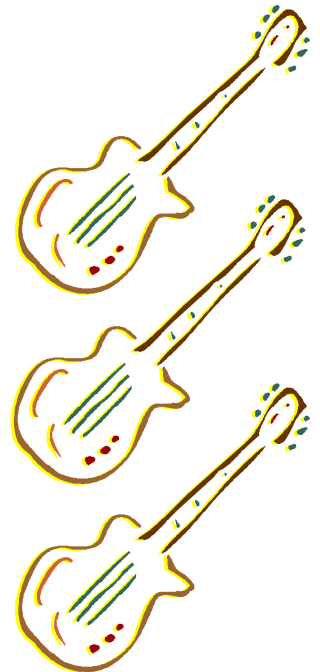
11:00 am - Opening Ceremony

12:00 pm - Wonderful Johnson

1:30 pm - Ronnie Morgan

3:00 pm - Confederate Railroad

6:00 pm - close



Parker Oglesby is a friend and neighbor whose music we enjoy at community events.

Ronnie Morgan is an old favorite here and was at Festival last year.

Mark Chestnutt, who has Texas roots, performs at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville the weekend after Festival.

Joe Diffie moved from his native Oklahoma to Nashville where he wrote songs and sang on demo tracks until setting up a band of his own.

Wonderful Johnson can be heard at gigs in Southwest Florida where they are based. The group is celebrating its 5th birthday this year.

Confederate Railroad started in Georgia and are proud of their versatility and humor.

The Collier County Sheriff's Office will be on hand during the Festival with reinforced numbers. They will try to ensure smooth traffic flow by making SR-29 one-way out of town when necessary in the late afternoons.

If you have news, photos, announcements, or articles ... email snookcity@hotmail.com or phone 695-2905.

JANUARY/ FEBRUARY 2008

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
20	21 <u>Martin Luther King Day</u> Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	full moon ● 22 SAC meeting Media Center School, 3 pm	23 Ladies Coffee Ruth Hefflefinger Home 8 am	24 Gaither Gathering Germain Arena for tickets phone 695-3514	25	26 Pancake Fly-In Airport, 10-12 am Weight-Loss Group Comm Church 11 am
27	28 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	29 Primary Election 7 am to 7 pm see p.11	30 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am	31 ESHP Talk "Barron Collier" Museum, 2 pm see p. 3	FEB 1 SEAFOOD FESTIVAL Family Evening	2 SEAFOOD FESTIVAL
3 SEAFOOD FESTIVAL	4 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm FME mtg Comm. Church 10 am	5 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	6 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am School Early Release	new moon ○ 7 Great Gators School, 9:30 ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am Lions Club Depot, 7 pm	8 Blackwood Gospel School, 7pm Wild Turkey Banquet see p.3	9 Pet Vet see p.3 ORA Bazaar Chokoloskee
10 Pet Vet see p.3	11 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFCD Board Fire Sta, 6 pm	12	13 Ladies Coffee Everglades Scoop 8 am	14	15 Nat'l Park Speed Zones deadline for comments, see p.11	16 Jammin' in the Hammock Collier Seminole
17 Jammin' in the Hammock Collier Seminole	18 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Mission, 7 pm	19 Reach Out Comm. Church 8:30 a.m. SAC meeting Media Center School, 3 pm	20 Ladies Coffee to be announced 8 am	full moon ● 21 Lions Club Bd Mtg, 5:30 pm Copeland Civic 7 pm	22	23

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL PARK GULF COAST VISITORS' CENTER: daily 8 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: 1/24 (9-11 am) 1/29 (10 am - noon) 1/30 (9-11 am) ... dates in February to be announced

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

SMALLWOOD STORE: daily 10 am to 5 pm

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church

OBITUARY

Betty-Jo Tuttle, 65, a seasonal resident at ORA, passed away on January 12, 2008, after a long illness. She leaves her husband Boyd, 2 sons, a daughter, 3 step-children, and many other family members.

OBITUARY

Lonnie Clayton Demere, 74, passed away suddenly on January 8, 2008 in Ft Myers. Born and brought up in Chokoloskee, he attended the local school and was a commercial fisherman before moving to North Ft Myers. He leaves his brother Larry and many relatives associated with this local pioneering family.

Wild Turkey Banquet

The Everglades Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation is holding its 2nd Annual Banquet on **Friday, February 8**, in the Oyster House. For tickets, phone Keith at 695-1577 or Tony at 695-4150.

Blackwood Gospel Quartet

This famous group will perform here on **Friday, February 8**, at 7:00 p.m. in the School cafetorium. There is no admission charge but donations are welcome.. The Quartet began in 1934 and one member is a descendent of the original Blackwood Brothers. They have recorded over 200 albums and toured in many countries.



Don't miss the illustrated talk entitled "**Barron Gift Collier, His Life & Times**" presented by David Southall on **Thursday, January 31**, at 2:00 p.m. in the "**New Theater**" at the **Museum of the Everglades (105 West Broadway)**. Refreshments provided by **Everglades Society for Historic Preservation**. Phone 695-4642 or 695-0202.

MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, February 9** in **McLeod Park** from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm and in **Copeland** from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. She will also visit on **Sunday, February 10** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for surgery by appointment only. Phone 777-PETS.



RESTAURANT NEWS



Roadkill Cafe has closed.

JT's Grill & Gallery will open on **February 1**. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day except Wednesday.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 01/09/08: Vehicle Fire, 53m I-75
- 01/10/08: Vehicle Fire, SR-29 and I-75
- 01/11/08: Vehicle Accident, Everglades City
- 01/11/08: Unknown Medical Problem, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/12/08: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 & Janes Scenic Drive
- 01/13/08: Vehicle Fire, 74m I-75
- 01/13/08: Vehicle Fire, 80m I-75
- 01/14/08: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 & Janes Scenic Drive
- 01/15/08: Person Feeling Dizzy, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/16/08: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 01/16/08: Vehicle Accident, 68m I-75
- 01/16/08: Vehicle Accident, US 41 & SR 29
- 01/19/08: Laceration, Everglades City
- 01/19/08: Vehicle Accident, Plantation Island
- 01/20/08: Chest Pains, Everglades Fire Station
- 01/20/08: Vehicle Accident, I-75 & SR-29
- 01/21/08: Diabetic, Chokoloskee Island
- 01/21/08: Unknown Medical Problem, Lee Cypress
- 01/21/08: Sick Person, Lee Cypress
- 01/21/08: Person Fell, Everglades City
- 01/21/08: Assault Victim, Janes Scenic Drive
- 01/22/08: Aircraft Down, Dade-Collier JetPort

PLAN AHEAD IN 2008

- Feb 26 - Mar 1: MSD Festival
- Mar 1: Art-in-the Glades
- Mar 8-9: Pet Vet
- Mar 23: Easter Sunday
- Apr 19-20: Pet Vet
- Apr 26-27: Tamiami80 Celebration
- May 10: Firefighters' BBQ
- May 23: School Graduation
- May 24-25: Pet Vet

There will be an organizational meeting for a new weight-loss group on **Saturday, January 26**, at 11 am at the **Community Church**.

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

01/25/2008	Fri	03:41AM	2.7	H	11:31AM	-0.2	L	04:45PM	2.3	H	11:44PM	0.3	L
01/26/2008	Sat	04:30AM	2.5	H	12:05PM	0.0	L	05:16PM	2.4	H			
01/27/2008	Sun	12:32AM	0.2	L	05:23AM	2.2	H	12:38PM	0.2	L	05:49PM	2.4	H
01/28/2008	Mon	01:25AM	0.2	L	06:23AM	1.9	H	01:08PM	0.4	L	06:25PM	2.4	H
01/29/2008	Tue	02:28AM	0.2	L	07:32AM	1.6	H	01:24PM	0.6	L	07:05PM	2.4	H
01/30/2008	Wed	03:39AM	0.2	L	08:59AM	1.5	H	12:25PM	0.7	L	07:56PM	2.3	H
01/31/2008	Thu	04:49AM	0.1	L	09:03PM	2.3	H						
02/01/2008	Fri	05:51AM	0.0	L	02:28PM	1.8	H	05:30PM	0.9	L	10:15PM	2.4	H
02/02/2008	Sat	06:44AM	-0.1	L	02:32PM	1.8	H	06:32PM	0.8	L	11:16PM	2.5	H
02/03/2008	Sun	07:30AM	-0.2	L	02:05PM	1.9	H	07:20PM	0.8	L			
02/04/2008	Mon	12:05AM	2.5	H	08:11AM	-0.3	L	02:10PM	2.0	H	08:02PM	0.7	L
02/05/2008	Tue	12:46AM	2.7	H	08:49AM	-0.4	L	02:31PM	2.1	H	08:40PM	0.6	L
02/06/2008	Wed	01:23AM	2.8	H	09:24AM	-0.4	L	02:56PM	2.2	H	09:18PM	0.5	L
02/07/2008	Thu	01:59AM	2.8	H	09:58AM	-0.4	L	03:22PM	2.3	H	09:57PM	0.4	L
02/08/2008	Fri	02:35AM	2.8	H	10:31AM	-0.3	L	03:49PM	2.4	H	10:38PM	0.2	L

Camellia Street Grill
Great Food And Music On The Barron River

Natara M. Rementeria
Manager

208 Camellia street
Everglades City
FL 34141
239-695-2003
camelliastreetgrill@yahoo.com



Camellia Street Grill

Triad Seafood Market & Cafe
Stone Crabs • Shrimp • Conch
Smoked Fish • Frog legs • Crab Cakes
Homemade Key Lime Pies

On the River behind the School

Orlo & Pam Hilton
(239) 695-0722
Now open at 6 am for breakfast!




GLADES REALTY
"Your Everglades Connection"

KAREN COCHRAN
Broker - Associate

611 Collier Avenue
P.O. Box 599
Everglades City, FL 34139
www.gladesrealty.com

239-695-4299 (Bus)
239-695-0413 (Res)
239-695-3849 (Fax)

Everglades Seafood Depot
Restaurant and Market

Located in the
old Everglades depot
since June 1928.



Mailing Address
P.O. Box 69
Chokoloskee, FL 34138

Billy & Crystal Potter
102 Collier Ave.
Everglades, FL 34139
(239) 695-0075

Serving Everglades City and Surrounding Areas

MARSON SAFETY SYSTEMS, INC
A FULL SERVICE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTOR

Herb Kehoe
Licensed and Insured
State Reg # ER000 7098

P.O. Box 708
Chokoloskee, FL 34138

239-695-2357
Cell 841-809-0980

Bob Wells Real Estate
www.bobwellsrealestate.us

Fran Tiffit
Broker/Associate

210 S. Copeland Ave
Everglades City, Florida, 34139

Office: 239-695-2660 Fax: 239-695-0967



RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET

Pizzeria


695-FOOD
(695-3663)

OPEN 4:30 - 9:00 p.m. (closed Wed.)



Nature's Exotic Beauty
Environmental Portraits
in the Florida Everglades
by
Lucky Cole

Call Toll Free 866-479-0427
l_cole@earthlink.net
www.naturesexoticbeauty.com



GLADES REALTY
"Your Everglades Connection"

JAN BROCK
Broker/Owner

611 Collier Avenue
P.O. Box 599
Everglades City, FL 34139
www.gladesrealty.com

239-695-4299 (Bus)
239-695-0413 (Res)
239-695-3849 (Fax)

ROD & GUN LODGE
& RESTAURANT
Originally built in the 1890's



Lunch 11:30 am - 4 pm Dinner 5-9 pm
Breakfast 6:30-10 am Saturday/Sunday

COLLIER
FUEL SERVICE, INC

Phone **262-4281**
ON SITE SERVICE

Rhodes, Tucker & Garretson
Attorneys At Law

SUNTRUST CENTRE - SUITE 204
860 N. COLLIER BLVD.
MARCO ISLAND, FLORIDA 34145

E. GLENN TUCKER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

P.O. Box 867, Marco Island, FL 34146 / Phone: 239-394-5151 / Fax: 239-394-5607
EMAIL: glenn@marco-law.com

Havana Café

Breakfast - Lunch - Dinner
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
8 am - 3 pm & 5:30 - 8 pm
Chokoloskee, 695-2214
10% off with this coupon

TOM JOHNSON
H2O ENGINEER - Culligan
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL WATER TREATMENT
42 YRS EXPERIENCE

cell: 239-470-1915 off: 239-482-2213
fax: 239-541-8008 off.fax: 239-482-3187
email: cultec@comcast.net
www.culliganman.net

Hardware
Marine Supplies
Knives



T-Shirts
Caps
Unusual Gifts

WIN-CAR, INC.




Post Office Box 247
Everglades City, FL 34139
wincar123@earthlink.net

Carolyn Thompson & Jim Webb
239-695-3201
Fax: 239-695-3334

OPEN Monday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SCHOOL NEWS

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

website: www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg

IMPORTANT DATES

- Thurs, Jan 25: Girls' Basketball, 5:30 p.m.
- Thurs, Jan 25: Boys' Basketball, 7:00 p.m.
- Tues, Jan 29: Boys' Basketball, 6:00 p.m.
- Wed, Feb 6: Early Release
- Tues-Fri, Feb 12-15: FCAT (Writing)
- Mon, Feb 18: President' Day



From Savannah's Eyes

I can't believe it is almost February and the Seafood Festival is almost here! I can't wait to play the games because playing the games is so much fun. I love to ride the rides with my friends. That's the best part of the Festival to all the kids. We love to eat the food that they make at the Seafood Festival. There are so many different kinds of foods to eat from alligator to Indian burgers to chicken and much more. The music is great all weekend end. My dad is going to sing on stage on Friday night at 5:00 and at 11:00 on Saturday morning. My Mom and I are his biggest fans because his voice is so good and he makes us laugh, too. Oh, and we love him so much, too.

Our school always has a coke booth at the Festival so if you get thirsty, please support our school and buy cokes from us. We will appreciate it.

So, enjoy the Festival and have lots of fun!

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



5th & 6th: Savannah Oglesby, Sloan Brown
 NOT pictured: Joel Howard

THANKS to Trina Mitchell for Gator photos.

GREAT GATORS, December 2007



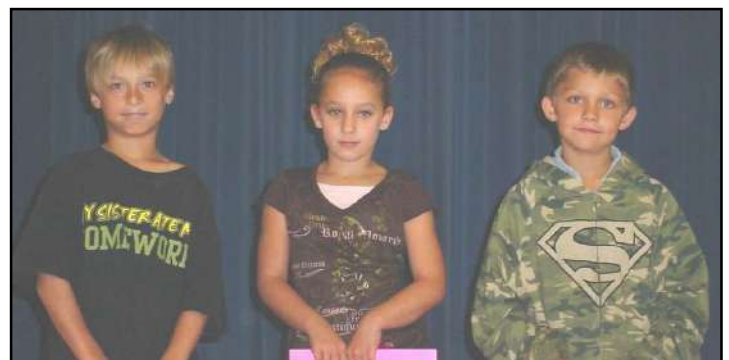
PreK & K: Austin Easterly, Brandy Bowen, Savannah Weeks



1st: McBeth (Mackey) Collins, Johnny Nicholson, Jerry Pablo-Ramirez



2nd: George Brummett, Emily Brown, Ashlyn Goff



3rd & 4th: Triston Kibodeaux, Kiley West, Brandon Bruscini

DEANO'S
A/C and HEATING
 6th Generation
 Locally Owned & Operated

**Sales
 Service
 Maintenance**

CALL ANYTIME
 239-695-2278
 239-253-2882
 239-253-4860

\$25.00 one-time DISCOUNT
 with this coupon



Everglades Spa & Lodge
 201 W Broadway
 Everglades City, Florida 34139

...in the historic ... Bank of the Everglades building

Relax at our local Wellness Center and enjoy:

*Facials - Massage - Colonics - Aromatherapy
 De-Tox Clay Baths - Rain drop Therapy
 Bach Flower Remedies - Ear Candeling
 HeartMath ... and much more*

Everglades Lodge
 Bed & Breakfast
 239.695.3151
www.evergladeslodge.com

Everglades Spa
 Wellness Center
 239.695.1006
www.evergladesspa.com

**EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
 BOAT TOURS**
 Sole authorized concession on Gulf Coast
 Everglades National Park
 Open 365 days



Mangrove Wilderness
 10,000 Island Tours
 Canoe Rentals
 Gift Shop
 Located at Ranger Station
 1/2 mile South of Traffic Circle
 1-866-NAT-PARK




**Kenny Brown
 Resort Manager**

OUTDOOR RESORTS
 Chokoloskee Island
 Hwy 29 South
 P O Box 39, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138
 (239) 695-2881 & 695-3788



PARKWAY Motel & Marina

Bill & Geri Shelburne
 239-695-3261
parkway@chokoloskee.net
 1180 Chokoloskee Drive • P.O. Box 340
 Chokoloskee Island, FL 34138

Capt. Bill Lindersay


**SNOOK
 TARPON & REDFISH**
 IN EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK
 FLY • PLUG • SPIN
239-695-0314
WWW.CHOKOLOSKKEEFISHING.COM
 CHOKOLOSKKEE, FLORIDA



**STAY & PLAY
 AT THE IVEY HOUSE**

- Luxury Rooms in the Ivey House Inn
- Screened Courtyard with Pool & Waterfall
- Gift Shop & Gallery
- Guided Day-Trips with Naturalist

107 Camellia Street (behind the Post Office)
 Everglades City
www.IveyHouse.com
 239-695-3299

**Everglades
 Community
 Church**

*"The friendly church
 on the circle"*

101 S. Copeland Avenue
 Everglades City, Florida

Rev. Dr. Bob Wallace, Pastor

Adult Sunday School 9:45-10:30 am
 Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am

www.evergladescommunitychurch.com

CAPT. TONY BROCK (239) 695-4150

AMERICAN HERITAGE

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

10,000 ISLAND
 EVERGLADES
 NAT'L PARK GUIDE

SNOOK • TARPON
 RED FISH • TROUT
 SCENIC TOURS

P.O. BOX 599 • EVERGLADES CITY, FL 34139
CaptTBrock@aol.com

210 Collier Ave. Box 380 Ph. 239-695-4499
 Everglades City, FL 34139 Fax 239-695-4776

RIVER WILDERNESS

★ www.river-wilderness.com ★

Daily - Weekly - Monthly Rentals

WATERFRONT VILLAS - SCREEN PORCHES - CANOES
 SWIMMING POOL - BOAT RAMP - DOCK - OUTDOOR BBQ

Everglades Kayak Fishing!



Guided "Mother Ship" Day Trips
 Capt. Charles Wright (239) 695-9107

www.EvergladesKayakFishing.com

MUSEUM OF THE EVERGLADES



105 West Broadway, Everglades City, FL
 Open: Tuesday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm
 Saturdays, 9 am – 4 pm
 Admission is Free
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 Contact Martha at 695-0008

Everglades Area
 Chamber of Commerce, Inc.



website: www.evergladeschamber.com

Post Office Box 130 239-695-3172 Business
 Everglades City, FL, 34139 239-695-3171 Fax

Knitting with Nancy
 Yarns and Hand Knits · Lessons

3804 E. Tamiami Trail
 Naples, FL 34112
 239-793-8141

knittingwithnancy@embarqmail.com
www.knittingwithnancy.com

cocoplum

Gift Gallery

offering art, handcrafts and
 fair trade items from local
 and global artisans

- ~ Jewelry, Belts and Handbags ~
- ~ Children's Toys ~ Handmade Pottery ~
- ~ Tropical Jams and Salsas ~ Books ~
- ~ Gifts and Guides for Birders ~

Now offering
 Wireless Internet

Surf the net with a cold drink on our comfy porch!

207 W. Broadway, Everglades City (239) 695-2630
 One block West of the Museum of the Everglades

Recipe for Good Eating



Ginger Scallion Vinaigrette

Submitted by Lundy Valentine

from Red's Fresh Seafood House and Tavern on Pine Island

- ½ cup Rice wine vinegar
- ¼ cup Soy sauce
- 3 TBS Brown sugar
- 1½ TBS Fresh grated ginger
- 1 tsp Sweet chili paste
- 1 tsp Fresh garlic (mashed with flat side of knife blade)

Whisk constantly while streaming in to emulsify:

- ¾ cup Vegetable oil
- 1 TBS Sesame oil
- 1 TBS Chili oil

Finally add:

- 2 TBS Toasted sesame seeds
- Scallions sliced on bias (green and white parts)

Lundy Valentine will be opening JT's in Chokoloskee on February 1 (see page 8). She has worked in the food industry for 30 years and generously provided this recipe from Red's on Pine Island where she was manager before moving to our area.

Angel of the Swamp

by Patricia Huff



Some angels never seem to sleep. They have the energy of a whole band of angels, energizing everyone else around them. Even when they retire or are supposed to be on vacation in South Florida, their work habits can't seem to stop. They just keep on going and going and going. Lucky for us locals to have some of these angels descend upon us during the winter months and bring their smiles and laughter. Such is our angel this month. You'd recognize her by her ever-cheerful face and her lists of activities she is constantly organizing. She hails from Michigan and is celebrating her 50th wedding anniversary this year, although she doesn't even look 50 years old! I first met Jean Schultz about eight years ago when Karen Cabral and I were looking for volunteers to help us with the Kids' Activities Club and we held an organizational meeting. Jean was there making lists; lists for everything: what activities would the kids like to do after school; who could we find for volunteers; what benefits could the kids derive from our mentoring. She owned her own pre-school program in Michigan and had the experience we needed. She continued to be one of our best volunteers for the following seven years. Then Jean had the brilliant idea of having community members "adopt" a lamppost in the City at \$25 each which covered the cost of paint. She then organized American flags to adorn them. During this time Jean helped set up the Everglades Area Artisans Association, which had a gallery in the old Glades Realty building. This led into Art-in-the-Glades which is held in McLeod Park. Jean, the angel, lent her organizational skills to help raise funds for the City Hall renovation, initiating the community-wide "yard sale", cleaning out the community center and setting up the silent auction. When City Hall was finally restored, she helped to organize the "Restoration Celebration" that was held last January. Several years ago Jean was among the art students that met with Paul Tribble at the school to pursue her love for creative arts. Last year Jean organized the "art group" that gets together informally for social as well as a creative sessions. We are all grateful to Jean for everything she has contributed, both at ORA and in Everglades City. She's always there to with great ideas and hard work to help with local projects.

Historic JT's Opens Again!

JT's is back!! The history of this local store and restaurant dates back to the 1880's when C.G. McKinney started his trading post on the shoreline at the northwestern edge of Chokoloskee Island (known now as the Glenn property). The "Sage of Chokoloskee", as McKinney was known, also petitioned for the first post office to this area in 1891. He called it "Comfort" but it soon was changed to Chokoloskee, the original Native American name meaning "old house" or "big house" for this shell-mound island.

McKinney continued to run his business until the 1926 hurricane when the building was destroyed and he died suddenly at the dock in Everglade where he was buying supplies. It was then operated successively by the Lopez family, Alice Brown (McKinney's daughter and Totch's mother), Ernest & Mary Hamilton, and Clarence "Doc" Brown (Totch's uncle) who moved the building to where ORA is now after the Causeway was built.

In the 1950's, one of Collier's original corporate office buildings behind the Rod & Gun Club was moved by barge to Chokoloskee and eventually Doc Brown's store operated from it in its present location. James C. and Mildred Kelley moved to Chokoloskee in 1973 and ran it as the island's only food market under the name "Kelley's Grocery and Tackle." They were open 7 days a week and were famous for their home-made barbeque and key lime pie. They offered a full line of groceries and meats, as well as fishing tackle.

In April of 1989 Jack and Fran Tiff became the new owners and called the store "JT's", after Fran's nickname for her husband. She opened a real estate office in the back but they continued selling groceries as well as Mr. Kelley's barbeque and Mrs. Kelley's key lime pie (they were given the secret recipes). On February 7, 1991, JT's celebrated the grand opening of The Lunch Room featuring salads, soups, sandwiches, pizzas, desserts and daily specials from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. seven days a week. They had three tables inside and one outside. They had always offered sandwiches but now they had sit-down facilities to serve the community.

In August of 1994 Larry and Jane Pegg bought the store and business after Fran decided to sell. They modernized the kitchen and expanded the dining room, changing the name of the restaurant to "JT's Island Grill & Grocery." However, a little less than a year later, Robert and Vicky Wells bought the little island establishment and continued the tradition of offering daily specials and home-cooking. Vicky says that they could seat 55 people in the restaurant. They also offered catering services and would occasionally hold wedding anniversaries there. It was a laid back local store,



with bluegrass jam sessions. Bob and his dog Sadie were featured in magazines such as *Florida Living*.

In November of 2000 Avery Sumner purchased the store and after a few month of renovation, she and Norm Trablusky opened on February 2001 serving three meals a days. She expanded the operation with a gift shop & gallery, music in the evenings, and visiting art exhibitions.

Now, on February 1, 2008, Lundy Valentine and Jeff Caputo will re-open JT's and carry on its long history. Jeff is a native Floridian from Pine Island. Lundy is originally from Pennsylvania and met Jeff while she managed "Red's" restaurant (see recipe on page 7).

It has been her life-long dream to open her own restaurant and she says she is so grateful to have this amazing opportunity in Chokoloskee and feels honored to be a steward of this historic place. She is looking forward to being a part of the community and wants JT's to be a neighborhood meeting place for people to enjoy fresh homemade food with a local flair. The menu will start with home-made scones and breads for breakfast followed by soups, salads, and sandwiches. JT's will be open daily except Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The phone number remains the same, 695-3633.





LOCAL HISTORY

It is certainly a year of anniversaries! Besides the 95th for the Chokoloskee Church of God (see page 10), in 2008 we will be celebrating 8 decades of the Tamiami Trail during a gala event on April 26-27, exactly 80 years since the official opening on April 26, 1928.

It is also the 10th anniversary of the Museum of the Everglades. The old Laundry building which was restored, thanks to local fundraising, and then handed over to the County to display our history. The official opening was deliberately held on April 26 to coincide with the Trail anniversary.

But there's more! Collier County was established in 1923, Everglades City was incorporated in 1953, and McLeod Park (packed with the Festival this week) was started in 1968 and benefited from early Festival proceeds.

McLeod park is named for D. W. McLeod who was Mayor of the town and then the City for almost 35 years. He was also the tax assessor and ran the first title service in the new county. He wife Lucy succeeded him as tax assessor and was much beloved for her kindness to the community.

The "Tamiami-80" committee is working on all the events which will take place in April. If you would like to help with the organizing or be a sponsor, phone Carol at 695-2159.

Calusa Talk & Walk

There will be a talk about Calusa Culture on **Tuesday, February 5**, at 7:00 p.m. in Mackle Park Auditorium on Marco Island. On the following day, there will be a field trip beginning at 9:30 a.m. Phone Betsy on 394-6917 or see www.theMIHS.org.

FELINE NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS - Part 2

by Adela Padron-Butler

In mid September 2007, we journeyed to south central Kentucky for a much needed vacation. While traveling on State Road 29, north toward Alligator Alley (I-75), the onset of our trip, my eyes never strayed far from the brush along the edge of the road on one side and the canal banks on the other side. Bill had already had his live, wild panther encounter, while I still yearned for the same experience. After all, this had become a challenge to me since we bought into the area in 1989. As our trip advanced north and away from panther habitat, I gave the thought a rest.

Kentucky has afforded us other wild life sightings equally enjoyable. Our farm sits quietly in our absence and the wild local animals find refuge there. On many occasions we sit silently and motionless in the living room or kitchen and watch deer or turkey forage nearby. These animals are so keen with their senses that they immediately spot movement inside the house and scamper. Have you ever seen wild turkeys run? First, the leader of the pack stops picking for food and raises his head tall, jerking it in different directions when it senses danger or an intrusion. Slowly it leaves its spot. Almost as if on cue, the rest of the flock follow suit. If the leader feels really threatened, it takes off running, head extended, and spindly legs moving the top heavy body swiftly. The whole flock vacates into the forest in no time. I always get a thrill and a laugh watching this event.

Over the years, we have enjoyed a variety of birds feeding nearby, wild rabbits, foxes, coyotes and even our neighbor's cows have come into our fields, but that's another story. On a more adventuresome note, Bill has been confronted by a pack of wild dogs while out and about scouting the property. In the last five years or so we have also had several stray dogs appear at our door looking for a home. After bathing, feeding and giving them attention, they become fierce protectors of the farm. In each case, we have found good homes for them before departing for Florida.

This past summer was different. We had an unusual encounter with a relative of the panther (here I go again), the common cat. While I respect their cunning and intelligence, I am not enamored enough to adopt one. Perhaps this has something to do with being a ragtop owner and constantly having to brush cat hair off of it despite putting boxes of moth balls on the convertible's top to deter their lounging on it. Besides, Bill and I have been cat parents in the distant past and our lifestyle would not be fair to a house pet at this time.

Even so, our resolve was seriously tested. While tending to paperwork in the den, I thought I heard a weak mew coming from underneath the outside deck. I peeked out the door several times and saw nothing. The mew continued and finally it appeared: A scrawny, yellow from head to tail, furry and full of personality kitty about six weeks old. It looked at me sadly and sat down while I stared back through the barrier of the glass door. I went to get Bill to tell him a new stray awaited him. When he appeared, the kitty had turned its back to the door and sat looking dejectedly. It would peer over its shoulder at us periodically. We were smitten, although I sensed an actor. Both of us were quickly drawn to helping it.

to be continued ...

© 2008, Adela Padron-Butler, All rights reserved.



Chokoloskee Church of God 95th Anniversary

by Helen Bryan

The Pentecostal movement was begun in 1912, on Chokoloskee Island by J.J. Babe and Sally Whidden, who came here by boat from Ft. Myers. A revival was held in 1913, with forty local people converted and baptized in water at McKinney's landing, which is now the home of Martha & Craig Daniels, it being her great-great-grand-dad and Lorna (Raymond) Rewis' great-grand-dad. It was at this time land was donated by C.G. McKinney, contributor to the The American Eagle Newspaper, to build the first and only Church on the Island, donating lumber, etc. The Chokoloskee Church of God was established in 1913 and is the third oldest Church of God in the state of Florida, The church was set in order some fifteen years before a roadway, the Tamiami Trail, was built through south Florida's Everglades and swamp lands.

Circuit-rider preachers would visit the island to fill the pulpit for short periods of time, coming by mail boats; then chanced an opportunity to return to their place of destination when a boat would stop to sell or buy goods, sailing from Ft. Myers or Key West, Florida. Only when the Tamiami Trail (US-41) from Naples, Florida to Miami was completed in 1928, was a full time minister able to be appointed to the church, but vehicles could still only travel as far as Everglades City and a boat trip to the Island was necessary from there.

Not until 1955, was a roadway built onto Chokoloskee Island. The present church is now the third church that has been built due to hurricane, and enlargement. Beginning in 1913, the first church deacon holding that position until 1954, was William F. Brown, father to Mary (Ernest) Hamilton, and grandfather of Crystal (Billy) Potter. Current Deacon is Arvid Brown, serving 27 years. Past ministers, totaling 22, leave many members and relatives tied to this area being the Rev. Claude Stokes family, Rev. Kyle Bryan family, Rev. Thomas Wells family, the Rev. Doyle Goff family, Rev. I.D. Hancock family and the Jesse Browning family. Present minister, Bishop Morris Dantin was appointed to the Church, Nov. 1995, having served the local church and community for 12 years. He and his wife Martha have a great love and concern for all families in the Everglades community area. The local congregation has 178 members.

The church will celebrate its 95th anniversary in April 2008 and plans are already underway. The Women's Ministry is going to publish a cook book and hope that everyone will contribute historic recipes. The deadline is the second week in February! For more info or to help, phone Martha Dantin at 695-3735.



Fishing Report

by Capt Bill Lindsay

Lets get the bad news out of the way first. This last Artic blast killed a lot of game fish in the backcountry. The Gopher Creek area was hit hard. I saw many dead snook and Jewfish. In the larger bays in the backcountry, temperatures did drop to life threatening levels but did not kill as many fish. Out in the Gulf anglers found some dead sharks drifting. The good news is that fishermen have been catching some nice fish since the cold front came through. Capt. Steve Huff caught some nice snook and redfish in the coves along the Gulf. At this time of year the water is generally gin-clear. Sight-fishing for snook and reds offers winter fly casters great opportunities. Trout can be found over the grass flats and in the deep trenches around islands. Of course, sheepshead, snapper and black drum can be caught on shrimp fished on the bottom. Mackerel, bluefish and pompano are all on the move.

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.

MEMORIES

“A Cat Tale”

by Barbara Hoffman Daniels

When I first built out in the Big Cypress in 1971, I had to walk each morning at the crack of dawn to catch a ride to my job as my companion left much earlier with our only vehicle. Actually, I thought this would be a very invigorating thing to do. So, I set out one morning to my destination about half a mile away (no houses, nothing but wilderness and a long gravel road) when about a 150 feet from me I saw slouching along toward me what I could make out to be feline but much larger than a regular house cat. I thought, “OK, Bobcat”, but surely he would step off into the bushes. I would just call his bluff and he would vanish into the weeds and allow me to somewhat nervously continue on my way. Well, I guess he liked a nice clear road to walk on too and so he kept coming toward me. All the time I was telling myself to just keep going. I'll never know whether or not he finally left the road because I started walking backwards. When he was about 45 feet from me, I finally turned around and trotted back home and called my ride to come in and get me. So! I chickened out. My companion ever after called me his Jungle Bunny.

Barbara Hoffman Daniels grew up in Everglades City. She then lived for over thirty years in the Big Cypress where she had the experience of seeing what our animals are really like.

PRIMARY ELECTION

The election takes place on **Tuesday, January 29**, in the Community Center from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. but you can vote early every day until then (except Sunday) from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in City Hall. Bring your driver's license or formal ID with you.

Only registered Republicans and Democrats can express a preference for Presidential candidates in their own party but everyone who is registered can vote on the Amendment to the Florida constitution on Property Tax Exemptions. The official sample ballot has the exact wording. You can see a copy at www.colliervotes.com.

Big Cypress Walk

The Alligator Amblers, the southwest Florida chapter of the Florida Trails Association, have organized a walk on **Sunday, February 3**, in Big Cypress. The approximately 8 miles will be in the Loop Road area. For more info, phone see www.ambler.floridatrail.org or phone 594-0401

Local Man to the Rescue ... CORRECTION

We received the following correction from Ethel Winters of Hiawassee, GA, the lady who was rescued while canoeing in the 10,000 Islands, with regard to her not wearing a life vest:

"We did have PFDs with us. My PFD (personal flotation device) was next to me, and when we started to take on water, I folded the PFD across my chest and held it there for the 2 1/2 hours I was in the water. Jason Sine (our rescuer) had to almost pry it out of my hands to put it on and snap it up, before getting out of the canoe, and into his kayak. He didn't see me, when he approached our canoe, because I was laying back on the supplies, trying to stabilize the canoe and keep it from capsizing."

The *Rapper* apologizes for any misunderstanding in the January 11 article.

VIP Report

by Shirley Leonard



As an Everglades National Park VIP (Volunteer-in-Parks) I like to report in this column any unusual event in the Gulf Coast portion of the park. Wednesday night, Jan 16th, qualifies.

About 200 area residents attended a public hearing at Everglades City School about manatee protection zones. Approximately 15 representatives of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Geological Survey and Everglades National Park also attended. The hearing was required by law and open for discussion to anyone who wished to comment. Many spoke up during the formal presentation of two proposed manatee zone protection plans. Another 60 signed up at the door to speak after the presentation. The meeting lasted nearly 2 ½ hours.

The issue: two proposed plans by Fish and Wildlife and Everglades National Park to improve the area's protection of manatees. Both plans enlarge the current manatee zones in Chokoloskee Bay. The area is now designated an AIP, Area of Inadequate Protection. These zones require all boaters to reduce their speed, some places to as low as idle. Other areas allow speeds of 20 mph and 30 mph.

Speakers made the following points:

- Fish and Wildlife lost a lawsuit in 2001 brought by Save the Manatee Club and is required under law to enlarge the zones in Chokoloskee Bay. Of seven areas in the state required to do so, only this area has not yet complied.
- At low tide, fishing boats usually need to move quickly ("get up on plane") in order not to foul their engines with the bay's mud floor and grasses. This usually means speeds up to or exceeding 25 mph. One speaker asked that 25, not 20 mph, be permitted in the final plan.
- Construction projects such as docks and marinas within the proposed zones have been stalled since 2000 when the lawsuit was filed and cannot resume until the new zones are in place.
- Some argued the manatee is an exotic species, not native to Florida, and should not be protected by law. Others questioned if there are enough manatees to warrant more than the present precautions.
- Some questioned if the number of manatees killed by collisions with boats is significant to warrant further restrictions. Cold weather snaps and red tide also account for manatee deaths.
- Studies begun in 2000 have determined "hot spots" and "travel corridors" in the bay where manatees tend to congregate. No less than 30 manatees were sighted and documented in a hot spot near the Chokoloskee causeway, a U. S. Geological Survey biologist said.

Park Superintendent Dan Kimball emphasized that he wants people to make their opinions known. "You know a lot, and we've taken a stab at it," Kimball said. "We know you really care a lot about this place. We really need to get your input."

Comment forms are available at the Ranger Station in Everglades City. They should be received at the ENP by **February 16** at Everglades National Park, 40001 SR 9336, Homestead, FL, 33034.

You can also comment online and learn more at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> or ask for information by email at EVER_Ranger_Activities@nps.gov

For info about Save the Manatee, see www.savethemanatee.org.

SNOOK CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE. Share in corporation includes lot with Travel Trailer and 10-year dock rights on Barron River. \$50,000. Everglades VR Corp #34. Call 239-695-0633.

Send your Classified Ads to snookcity@hotmail.com or phone 695-2905

JOBS VACANT

JT's Chokoloskee looking for Kitchen and Counter help. Please call Lundy, 695-3633.

PUT YOUR JOB ADS IN THE RAPPER no charge! phone us at 695-2905

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

PUBLISHER

Patricia A. Huff, Snook Publications
P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139
(239) 695-2397, snookcity@hotmail.com

EDITORS

Patty Huff & Marya Repko

CONTRIBUTORS

Helen Bryan, Barbara Daniels, Bill Lindsay, Avery Sumner, Savannah Oglesby, Bob N. Wallace, Shirley Leonard, Sue Evans, Adela Padron-Butler, Lisa Marteeney

PRODUCTION

layout: Marya Repko printing: Snook Publications

PUBLISHER'S STATEMENT

We aim to provide local news 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.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

© 2008, Snook Publications.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior permission.

www.evergladesmulletrapper.com

Congratulations

to **Patty & Steve Huff** on the birth of a grandson on **January 21.**

She will be out of town until the end of February. To contact the *Rapper* by phone, call Marya at 695-2905

Super Service

for your Garden & Grounds
Grass cutting, mulching, sod laying, tree trimming, planting, etc ...

Rick Perez Lawn & Maintenance LLC

Licensed and Insured.

(239) 214-1408

A Pleasure to Serve You

JIM COLETTA

County Commissioner, District 5

Jim@JimColetta.com

(239) 455-7882

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Jim Coletta, Republican, for County Commission

RIGHT CHOICE SUPERMARKET

- Hats / Shirts
- Films / Batteries
- Wines / Beers
- ICE
- Medicine
- Groceries
- Meats
- Produce



104 S Buckner Ave. Everglades City

Tel. 239-695-4535

2007 Income Tax Preparation

\$25 - EZ \$22 - Forms
\$75 - 1040A \$18 - e-file



File Early for an Early Refund!

Mike the Tax Guy

Everglades City, 695-0595



All Season Window Tinting

Complete Solar Protection Films



Specializing in Residential Treatments

Skip Freeman

CELL: (239) 825-5874

OFFICE/FAX: (239) 695-3667

Licensed & Insured

SEA GULL STUDIOS



Shells • Gifts

Paintings



Virginia Klotz, Owner

201 S. Copeland Ave
Everglades City, Florida

(239) 695-3908

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

date _____

Please make check payable to "Patricia Huff" and send to Snook Publications, P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

___ NEW Mullet Rapper (incl. WHAT) by email (\$10)

___ NEW Mullet Rapper (incl. WHAT) by post (\$38)

NAME _____

EMAIL _____

STREET / P.O. BOX: _____

ALTERNATE ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

MONTHS AT ALTERNATE ADDRESS

___ JAN ___ FEB ___ MAR ___ APR ___ MAY ___ JUN ___ JUL ___ AUG ___ SEP ___ OCT ___ NOV ___ DEC

1/25/08