

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 2008

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume II • Issue #50

Big Cypress ORVs

There will be a meeting of the ORV Advisory Committee on **Tuesday, March 18**, in the Everglades Community Center at 3:30 p.m. Big Cypress National Preserve established this body to comment on the use of Off-Road Vehicles within the preserve and welcomes input from the public. Further meetings are scheduled throughout the rest of this year. For more info, phone 695-1103 or see <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>.



Star of the show on Saturday, March 1, was this panther that "Otter John" has raised since it was a kitten. To learn more about his wild animal rescue see www.otterman.net. For details of Florida Panther Week, see page 10.



CITY COUNCIL

In the brief meeting on Tuesday, March 4, Mayor Sammy Hamilton paid tribute to Vivian Brown who is leaving the area to live with family near Ocala (see the *Rapper*, 2/22/08). He said he appreciated everything she'd done for the City

The Mayor said he was still talking with the DEP about repairing the docks and asked the Council to move to renew the existing leases.

Sgt. Taylor reported on behalf of Collier County Sheriff's Office that there were a few suspects in the theft at the Havana Cafe when the restaurant's safe was removed.

Councilor Johnny Potter spoke about how the EMS and Fire Department had saved his life when he had a heart attack and remarked on the good job they did during a crash last week. He said that we should be thankful to have them here and grateful that their jobs had not been cut by the County.

Councilor Tammy Smallwood announced the Tamiami Trail 80th Anniversary celebrations which will take place on April 26/27. She said that the Museum of the Everglades was also having its 10th birthday on that weekend.

The next council meeting will be on Tuesday, April 1, at 5:30 p.m.



HAPPY 50th BIRTHDAY TO US!

We can't believe that we have achieved a half-century of issues. The *Rapper* started on October 20, 2006, shortly after the *Everglades Echo* closed down. The new paper then merged on April 27, 2007, after 24 weekly issues, with the monthly *What's Happening Around Town*. We hope you enjoy our publication with its news, events, and local features.



Mote Marine Lab interns Alicia LaPorte and Jamie Dorsey with one of the four juvenile sawfish that were tagged at the end of February in the Ten Thousand Islands.

The young fish, less than 4 feet in length, are found in shallow backwaters. They are a Federally protected endangered species. When you catch one, make a note of the tag id and then release it carefully. Tags stay on for several months but older fish may still be wearing them. Mote's sawfish research project has studied these unusual creatures in our area for over six years to assess various nursery habitats for this species.

Please report sightings to Mote for their sawfish study at 1-800-691-MOTE or sawfish@mote.org. See their website www.mote.org for more info.

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FEATURE: "Meet The Artist", page 9

MARCH 2008

| <u>SUN</u> | <u>MON</u> | <u>TUES</u> | <u>WED</u> | <u>THURS</u> | <u>FRI</u> | <u>SAT</u> |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 Old Florida Festival | 3 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm FME mtg Museum, 9 am Trail80th mtg Museum, 11 am | 4 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm | 5 Ladies Coffee Havana Cafe 8 am Lenten Bible Study ECC, noon | 6 Great Gators School, 9:30 ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am Lions Club Depot, 7 pm School early release | new moon ○ 7 No School Teacher Planning Day Moving Sale see p.3 | 8 Pet Vet see p.3 Moving Sale see p.3 |
| 9 Clocks Change Copeland Baptist Church Dedication 11 am, see p.3 Museum "Meet the Artist" 1 -3 pm, see p.9 | 10 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm OFCD Board Fire Sta, 6 pm | 11 Cookies for Our Troops deadline see p.3 | 12 Ladies Coffee JTs Grill & Gallery, 8 am Lenten Bible Study ECC, noon | 13 | 14 | 15 Wild Hog Roast Loop Road see p.3 |
| 16 | 17 Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm | 18 Reach Out Comm. Church 8:30 a.m. Big Cypress ORV mtg 3:30 pm, see p.1 School Board School, 3:30 pm | 19 Ladies Coffee Jan Brock's at the Estuary, 8 am OFCD Board Special Meeting Fire Sta, 6 pm | 20 ESHP talk Museum, 2 pm Lions Club Bd Mtg, 5:30 pm Maunday Thursday Service ECC, 7 pm | full moon ● 21 Good Friday Good Friday Service ECC, 7 pm | 22 |
| 23 Easter Sunday Sunrise Service Nat'l Park, 7 am | 24 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm | 25 SAC School, 3 pm | 26 Ladies Coffee Pat Rinkevich's Home 8 am Manatee Zones School, 6:30 pm | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm | APRIL 1 City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm | 2 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am | 3 Great Gators School, 9:30 ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am Lions Club Depot, 7 pm | 4 | 5 |

April 26-27: Pet Vet

April 26-27: Tamiami Trail 80th Anniversary Celebration

May 10: Firefighters' BBQ

May 12: Big Cypress ORV mtg

May 23: School Graduation

May 24-25: Pet Vet

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

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

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

SMALLWOOD STORE: daily 10 am to 5 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

WEIGHT LOSS GROUP: Fri, 5:30 pm weigh-in, 6 pm meeting, Community Church

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 3/6 ((9-11 am) 3/10 (noon-2 pm) 3/12 (9-11 am) 3/14 (noon-2 pm) 3/18 (10 am - noon) 3/19 (9-11 am)

MOVING SALE

There will be a giant "moving sale" at 110 East Camellia Street on **Friday, Saturday, & Sunday, March 7-9** from 9 am to 3 pm each day. For info, phone 695-2592.

COPELAND CHURCH

Copeland Baptist Church is having a dedication ceremony on **Sunday, March 9**, starting at 11:00 a.m. Founded as a Mission in 1958, the Church received its independence recently. A potluck lunch follows the service. For info, phone 287-0457.

COOKIES FOR TROOPS

Home-baked goods are really welcomed by our troops abroad! Bring your brownies, cookies, and snackbars to Martha at the Museum by **Tuesday, March 11**. For info or pickup, phone Sunny at 695-3205.

WILD HOG JAMBOREE

The 58th Annual Wild Hog BBQ will be held on **Saturday, March 15**, on the Loop Road (1/4 mile behind Monroe Station) by the Everglades Conservation & Sportsman Club. Gates open at 11 am and food is served from noon to 3 pm. Tickets are \$20. The event includes swamp buggy rides, live music, clay shooting, and kids' activities. For tickets, phone Martha at 695-0008. For history, see their website www.wildhogbbq.org.



Another new venture by the imaginative Carol Foss is the plant sale outside Everglades Island Properties, next door to Right Choice Supermarket off the circle in Everglades City.

RESTAURANT NEWS

Havana Cafe is open during the day only, from 8 am to 3 pm.

JT's is now open 11 am to 5 pm on Mon, Wed, Thurs and 11 am to 7 pm on Fri, Sat, Sun, closed Tues.

Camellia Street Grill is open from 11 am to 8 pm every day except Sunday.

Triad Seafood new hours: 7 am to 4 pm Sunday thru Thursday, 7 am to 8 pm Friday and Saturday.

MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, March 8** 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, March 9** from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for surgery by appointment only. Phone 777-PETS.



OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 02/20/08: Vehicle Fire, Ochopee
- 02/20/08: Attempted Suicide, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/21/08: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 and US-41
- 02/21/08: Vehicle Accident, 69m I-75
- 02/21/08: Unconscious Person, 80m I-75
- 02/21/08: Vehicle Accident, 66m I-75
- 02/21/08: Insect Bite, Everglades City
- 02/22/08: Intoxicated Person, SR-29 and US-41
- 02/22/08: Unknown Medical Problem, Everglades City
- 02/22/08: Nose Bleed, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/22/08: Broken Water Line, Port of the Islands
- 02/23/08: Vehicle Accident, 77m I-75
- 02/23/08: Allergic Reaction, US-41 and SR-29
- 02/23/08: Hook in Arm, Ochopee
- 02/23/08: Airboat Accident, Everglades City
- 02/23/08: Vehicle Accident, 49m I-75
- 02/24/08: Chest Pains, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/24/08: Vehicle Accident, 63m I-75
- 02/25/08: Person Fell, Oasis Ranger Station
- 02/26/08: Medic Alert, 53m I-75
- 02/26/08: Trouble Breathing, Everglades City
- 02/26/08: Medical Call Box Activation, 71m I-75
- 02/27/08: Possible Heart Attack, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/27/08: Person Down, Everglades City
- 02/28/08: Unresponsive Person, Chokoloskee Island
- 02/28/08: Chest Pains, 58m I-75
- 02/29/08: Smoke Investigation, Port of the Islands
- 02/29/08: Vehicle Accident, US-41 and SR-29
- 02/29/08: Face Laceration, Everglades City
- 03/02/08: Heart Problems, Everglades City
- 03/02/08: Allergic Reaction, 81m I-75
- 03/02/08: Vehicle Accident, Everglades City
- 03/04/08: Vehicle Accident, Everglades City
- 03/04/08: Brush Fire, 50m I-75

*There will be a special meeting of the OFCD Advisory Board on **Wednesday, March 19, at 6 pm.***

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------|-----|---------|------|---|---------|------|---|---------|-----|---|---------|------|---|
| 03/07/2008 | Fri | 01:51AM | 2.8 | H | 09:27AM | -0.2 | L | 02:33PM | 2.5 | H | 09:38PM | 0.1 | L |
| 03/08/2008 | Sat | 02:33AM | 2.8 | H | 10:01AM | -0.1 | L | 02:55PM | 2.6 | H | 10:20PM | -0.1 | L |
| 03/09/2008 | Sun | 04:18AM | 2.6 | H | 11:34AM | 0.1 | L | 04:17PM | 2.7 | H | | | |
| 03/10/2008 | Mon | 12:05AM | -0.3 | L | 05:10AM | 2.5 | H | 12:07PM | 0.3 | L | 04:42PM | 2.8 | H |
| 03/11/2008 | Tue | 12:53AM | -0.3 | L | 06:11AM | 2.2 | H | 12:39PM | 0.4 | L | 05:11PM | 2.9 | H |
| 03/12/2008 | Wed | 01:48AM | -0.3 | L | 07:24AM | 2.0 | H | 01:09PM | 0.6 | L | 05:48PM | 2.8 | H |
| 03/13/2008 | Thu | 02:53AM | -0.3 | L | 08:54AM | 1.7 | H | 01:32PM | 0.8 | L | 06:39PM | 2.7 | H |
| 03/14/2008 | Fri | 04:09AM | -0.2 | L | 08:01PM | 2.5 | H | | | | | | |
| 03/15/2008 | Sat | 05:27AM | -0.2 | L | 01:45PM | 1.9 | H | 05:20PM | 0.9 | L | 10:04PM | 2.5 | H |
| 03/16/2008 | Sun | 06:36AM | -0.2 | L | 02:02PM | 2.0 | H | 06:43PM | 0.8 | L | 11:37PM | 2.5 | H |
| 03/17/2008 | Mon | 07:35AM | -0.2 | L | 02:13PM | 2.1 | H | 07:45PM | 0.6 | L | | | |
| 03/18/2008 | Tue | 12:45AM | 2.6 | H | 08:24AM | -0.2 | L | 02:22PM | 2.2 | H | 08:35PM | 0.4 | L |
| 03/19/2008 | Wed | 01:38AM | 2.7 | H | 09:07AM | -0.1 | L | 02:34PM | 2.3 | H | 09:20PM | 0.3 | L |
| 03/20/2008 | Thu | 02:22AM | 2.7 | H | 09:45AM | -0.1 | L | 02:51PM | 2.5 | H | 10:01PM | 0.1 | L |
| 03/21/2008 | Fri | 03:01AM | 2.6 | H | 10:20AM | 0.1 | L | 03:11PM | 2.5 | H | 10:39PM | 0.0 | L |

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SCHOOL NEWS

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Thurs, 3/6: Early release
Fri, 3/7: Teacher Planning Day
Tues, 3/11: Baseball (home), 4:00 p.m.
Wed, 3/18: School Board, 3:30 p.m.
3/12-3/25: FCAT (Reading, Science, Maths)
Tues, 3/25: SAC, 3:00 p.m.
Fri, 3/28: Baseball (home), 5:00 p.m.
3/31-4/4: Spring Recess



From Savannah's Eyes

February has been the greatest month for me because I got what I've always dreamed about having and caring for ... a puppy. She is the cutest thing I've ever seen. She is an 8-week-old Yorkie. I named her Bindi Rose Oglesby. I went through a lot of names before I picked this one. It is a hard job to name your pet, or for me it was, because I wanted a very special name. That is why I named her that. She is black and tan right now, like all Yorkies, but she will turn another color later, like all tan or blue-gray. She is so playful. She loves to chase me on the kitchen tiles and she jumps when she runs (so cute) and she already gives me kisses and loves me to hold her. I love that too. She waits for me every day when I come home from school at the gate my Dad built so she will stay in the kitchen during the day. My Mom is her puppy sitter all day while I go to school. She has lots of toys already and she loves to chew. Did I mention that she has a teddy bear face? She is soooo cute! I love her so much. We got her from a breeder in Naples in the Estates. His dog had 3 girls and her sisters are cute too. She was only 4 weeks old when I first went there to the breeder's house. Right away I knew I wanted her. She was the smallest of the three puppies so I picked her and told the man I'd be back to get her when it's time for her to leave her Mom and I did that. It was one of the happiest days of my life. So, now you know how in love I am with Bindi Rose. I hope you all have a nice week.

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

Accelerated Readers

Congratulations to Ms P. Jones' 3rd & 4th grade class! They had the most AR points and won "Goldie" for the month of February.



The Easter AR contest begins on March 6 and ends on March 19.

READ ACROSS AMERICA

There will be a guest reader in the Children's Library for Pre-K through 6th grade on March 28 as part of "Read Across America", a program sponsored by the National Education Society (see their website www.nea.org).

Their mascot is Dr. Seuss whose whimsical books have been favorites since the mid-1950s when he published his first one, *The Cat in the Hat*. "Dr Seuss" is the pen name of Theodor Geisel (1901-1991) who was born in Springfield, MA, graduated from Dartmouth College in 1925, and spent time at Oxford University in England pursuing a doctorate in literature. However, he made his name publishing cartoons and humorous articles in magazines. In total, he wrote and illustrated 44 children's books, using a limited vocabulary which young readers can understand in a lilting poetical style.



This is what the school looked like until the 1960s when the building was torn down. We understand that there was also a "log cabin" on the school grounds which was used as the cafeteria. If you have old photos of the school, please let us know so we can scan them. Phone 695-2397.

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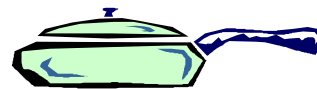
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Recipe for Good Eating

Emergency Preparations - Lazy Meals

by Marya Repko



We have been warned so many times to be ready to be self-sufficient and to have plenty of water and food, just in case the “biggie” hits (which could be a storm or a flu pandemic).

Some of my “lazy foods” are couscous and Rama noodles. They cook so quickly and easily that they’d be ideal in situations where the power is out and you’re relying on a gas burner ... or for camping out.

Couscous, the rolled wheat that is eaten in Mediterranean countries instead of rice, is ready almost instantly. Soak in a bit of water for 10 to 15 minutes before putting on the stove to warm. Drain and mix up with whatever leftover meat & veggies you have chopped and stir-fried in a bit of olive oil with some tasty spices (chili, jerk, blackening, curry) or subtle ones (cilantro or oregano).

I don’t use the spice packet that comes with the Rama noodles but, after boiling broken-up noodles for several minutes, I drain them and add to warmed leftover chopped meat & veggies. With no leftovers, I’d open a can of tuna to make an instant casserole of cooked Rama noodles and flavored mayonnaise (see *Rapper* 2/8/08).

By the way, a few spoons of uncooked couscous added to a soup will help thicken it and add some interest.

Household Tip

If you have a Britta filter, here is a tip from a wise elderly friend of mine: run water from the faucet each day into the bottom of the filter, shake to get the carbon granules stirred around, replace, and then refill the top container with water. I don’t know if it does any good, but I do it all the time. This tip is from the same practical person who told me to scrape my fingernails on soap before gardening (see *Rapper* 11/30/07) and that does work.

Angel of the Swamp

by Patty Huff



She was prominent in the Lions Club, a fixture in the Betterment Association, the queen of Christmas decorations around City Hall, and a devoted member of the Chokoloskee Church of God. This is one angel that the community will really miss after all the good works she has done over the past 35 years and we regret having to say good-bye to her. But, as she says, “The Lord doesn’t close one door without opening another” and she will take her caring talents to her brother and sister-in-law near Ocala where she can look after them. Vivian Brown was born in Ft. Myers, then moved to Miami where her father was working for FPL. When her family moved back to Collier County and lived in Immokalee, she went to work in Cape Coral and then to Ft. Lauderdale where she was married. She and her husband moved to Everglades City in 1973 and Vivian fell in love with this area. After a divorce in 1978 she decided to stay here, supporting herself with various jobs. For almost 20 of those years she worked for the City, mainly as a bookkeeper. It seems everyone in town has a story about how they have asked her for assistance at one time or another. Good luck, Vivian, and don't forget to come back and visit often. You will be missed!

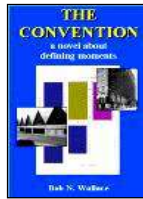


Off The Shelf

THE CONVENTION

by Bob N. Wallace

A book review by Sue Evans



The words on the back of the book piqued my interest. *Skullduggery and intrigue ... behind the scenes at the annual convention of a church denomination.*

Much as the words “skullduggery and intrigue” drew me to the book, it was because my church denomination (which shall remain nameless except to let you know it begins with the letter B) has had its own problems over the last twenty or so years. And, I was curious if this book could, perhaps, be even remotely related to my denomination. Even though it is fiction, I thought by reading THE CONVENTION, I might better understand the problems and gain some insight into what caused the turmoil. I got more than I expected!

Author Bob Wallace’s behind-the-scenes look at the planning and managing of such a huge event was interesting to me. Having organized AT&T shareholder meetings in the past, I had some idea of what he was talking about in staging such an event. But his attention to detail and wrapping the cast of characters into the event was testimony to his years of convention management and his knowledge of people. I only hope his cast of characters and their role in the story was more fiction than fact!

His cast of characters range in respectability from the capable and highly-respected Bill and Terri Ellis who are the Convention Managers for the church to The Rev. Dr. Max Hoffman, the lowest of the low and Secretary of the church. The other characters fall into this range of respectability and each has their own story. It’s a rather straight-forward plot and, for the most part, each character and his or her role in the plot are quite believable. It may surprise you to find yourself thinking of people who fit the mold of a particular character. Their personal goals, abilities, strengths and weaknesses are revealed to create an intriguing behind-the-scenes look at the convention and the politics that are unseen and unknown by the convention attendees.

This is a story of people experiencing defining moments in their lives as they come together at the convention and how they respond to those moments. The events lead some of the characters to reach for greater things; others, as is the way of the world, are led to personal ruin, divorce and/or suicide.

Let me say to you now, the book was a page-turner. Some books are read over a period of weeks or months. Others you can’t put down. If you’re an avid reader, you know what I mean. THE CONVENTION is a can’t-put-it-down kind of book! You just have to see what going to happen next and what the good guys are going to do to stop the bad guys from their skullduggery.

I wish you many days of good reading ...

THE KAYAK EXPERIENCE

by Adela Padron-Butler



Water crafting in the 10,000 Islands took on a whole different meaning when we went novice kayaking with friends recently (Bill and I were the novices). The group carefully prepared with survival and foul weather gear, food, drinks, itinerary and destination. The trip would entail the loop Halfway Creek makes, starting in Plantation Island onto the Turner River, Chokoloskee Bay and back to Plantation Island. As a precaution, a member of this expedition left his truck at the marina at the entrance to Chokoloskee in case someone petered out before the trip's end.

The tide was low and going out. The day was mild, breezy and partly cloudy. Halfway Creek was passable for about a half mile and then it became treacherous, albeit interesting. Fallen tree limbs from recent tornados and encroaching mangrove roots, that narrowed the width of the creek, slowed the procession. Water was barely a foot deep in some areas. A few mosquitoes made their presence known during the languid parts of the trip. We were crouching under low hanging limbs and at one point hoisting over a large tree trunk with the help of Bob who braved the murky water while slipping on muddy roots.

As we moved along, I was gaining appreciation for the little craft with a long history. A kayak affords the rider a vantage point no other water craft does. The rider sits level with the water. It may not be the craft of choice for persons squeamish about alligators or thoughts reminiscent of the movie JAWS. Notwithstanding, one can view incredible things in and out of the water from this level.

On this trip, with the tide so low, the filtering sun rays bounced off the banks exhibiting an accumulation of whitish sulfur. We knew it was sulfur and not botulism (ha) because of the aromatic sulfuric stench. Various hues of green moss just below the shallow water were also being illuminated, creating a breathtaking natural canvas. Birds led the way flying ahead of us under the canopy of mangroves. Some of the tree roots towered about four feet high; columns adorning the way. The open bay areas were a welcome reprieve and reminded us that we were advancing nicely on this journey.

The last leg of the trip, through the creek, was probably everyone's favorite. The banks are wider and the canopy's ceiling is higher and broader. Water rushes in from the Turner River and high mud banks are pocked with crab holes, some quite large, making one wonder just how huge of a creature lives in them. It was at this point that the group tied together before exiting the creek and enjoyed lunch and a much needed arm muscle relaxing break.

Out in the open, the wind had picked up and the groaning began. We were encountering the wakes of speeding, motorized boats. Ospreys screeched at our passing caravan. We were losing steam but were giddy and joyous. Laughter came easy. One of the strong kayakers in the group would forge ahead and fish in the rushing waters in the turns of the Turner River. The waiting truck in Chokoloskee beckoned, however.

Only one kayak completed the entire loop; the one I was riding in. And, no, I was not the power manning the two-seat vessel. I was a rider and sat like the Queen of Sheba throughout, thanks to Ron and his physical prowess and endurance. And thank you Bill, Bob and Rena for a memorable adventure in paradise.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Who was Tommie Barfield? Would Barron Collier been able to persuade the Florida legislature to carve out his county without her? Would the Tamiami Trail have been completed? And, would we be enjoying idyllic life in ECity if it were not for her?

She petitioned forcefully and intelligently in Tallahassee, when women were "seen but not heard" in 1923, to plead for Collier's new county which would fund the building of the Trail. She then played an important role in the County after its establishment as its superintendent of schools (although she only attended up to third grade).

Before that "Tommie" Camellia Stephens Barfield came to the attention of Collier and others as she spoke passionately to the Lee County Commissioners' Board for roads and ferries to improve the condition of Marco Islanders.

You can hear about this amazing woman on **Thursday, March 20**, at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Everglades. Her biographer, Betsy Perdichizzi of the Marco Island Historical Society, will give a presentation in period costume entitled "Afternoon Tea with Tommie" and then will sign copies of her book *A Girl Called Tommie; Queen of Marco* and her newest publication *Island Voices; They Came to Marco*.

The event (including tea and other refreshments) is hosted by ESHP. Everyone is welcome! For info or to RSVP, contact Jean at 695-0202 or Pat at 695-4642.



Meet the Artist

The featured artist this month at Museum of the Everglades is 80 year-old Walter Gorecki, a Chokoloskee resident whose meticulous paintings of wildlife and scenery will be featured at a reception to Meet-the-Artist on **Sunday, March 9**, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Gorecki says he always drew and modeled in clay as a child although there were no other artistic leanings in his family. He attended University of Illinois for a year before being drafted into the Army and then continued his studies as an art major at Mississippi Southern. His first job was designing women's shoes and, yes, he still looks at our footwear with interest. He then moved to John & Ollier Company in Chicago where he sold printing plates to the printing and advertising industry.



After retirement in 1994, he and wife Helen moved full-time to Chokoloskee where he now indulges in his loves of painting and fishing. Their spectacular home, on the edge of the bay, is festooned with his water colors and acrylics and her woven wall hangings and rugs. Both of them also enjoy making whimsical artifacts such as decorated palm fronds and painted furniture.

The Museum of the Everglades is at 105 West Broadway in Everglades City (the pink building off the Circle). Gorecki's work can be seen for the month of March, along with the permanent exhibit of the area's history and a short film about the construction of the pioneering Tamiami Trail. Hours are 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Tuesday - Friday), 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. (Saturday). Phone 695-0008.

TAMIAMI TRAIL 80TH CELEBRATION

After more than a year in the planning, this mammoth event is almost upon us. The 2-day celebration takes place on the weekend of April 26-27, just 80 years after the original Trail opening in ECity.



Committee chair Carol Moseman reports that sponsors are still needed for a number of items:

1. stage rental
2. transportation for Barron Collier Marching Band
3. birthday cakes
4. commemorative mugs
5. fireworks

If you can help, phone her at 695-2159 or email tamiami80@hotmail.com.

Other organizations with anniversaries have been contacted. For example, the Naples Daily News was founded as the Collier County News in 1923 and then changed its name in 1963 (another of the '03 and '08 dates). An important local date is that McLeod Park was founded 40 years ago in 1968 and during the weekend a commemorative monument will be unveiled.

A new website has gone live with details and histories. See www.tamiami80.com. The schedule will keep changing as events are added so keep an eye on it. And, do tell all your friends from near and far to mark the weekend as one not to miss!

Local Church Publishes Cookbook

Chokoloskee Church of God has collected the best recipes from church members, family, and friends and compiled them into a beautiful keepsake cookbook as part of its 95th anniversary celebration (see *Rapper*, 1/25/08).

This cookbook will feature a photo of the church on the front cover and contain a brief history of the church, including articles devoted to its two oldest members, Sister Margaret Webb and Aunt Bea (Brown) Rogers. The cookbook contains 200 well-loved recipes including local favorites, main dishes, desserts and many others.

Orders are now being taking for this historic one-of-a-kind commemorative cookbook. All proceeds will go to the Church of God Women's Ministry in support of their many missions' projects. To reserve your copy for only \$10, call Martha Dantin at 695-3735 or Lessie Raffield at 695-4626.



photo thanks to Bill Hassett

GLADES DAZE

by Steve Huff

Two weeks ago while idling up a small creek in the backcountry with long-time friend and fishing client, Bill Hassett, I happened to notice some movement along the bank and turned to see this huge snake which I'm told is a Burmese Python. The water was very clear and we managed to get a number of great photographs. The snake did not appear to be scared and just swam very casually along beside the boat at a distance of approximately 10 feet. My guess is that the animal was probably 12 feet long and might have weighed about 100 pounds. Although the snake is an invasive species, it is still very interesting to see one in the wild. This would be the second snake of this type that I have encountered; the first was just north of Everglades City in the Barron River. I realize that this is an undesirable species; however, I did not want to molest or harm it. In the Everglades it seems there is always something curious or bizarre around the next bend in the creek.

Florida Panther Week Events

Saturday, March 8: Naples Zoo, 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
educational exhibits, kids' activities

Tuesday, March 11: Naples Preserve, 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Discovery Club, kids age 7-12, phone 261-4290

Thursday, March 13: Fakahatchee, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
swamp walk with Mike Owen, reservations 353-8442

Friday, March 14: Bear Island Grade, 9:00 a.m. - noon
cycle tour of Big Cypress

Saturday, March 15: Panther Refuge, 8 a.m. - noon
tours, exhibits, kids' activities, swamp buggy rides
reservations for tours at 353-8422

The Panther Refuge is on the west side of SR-29, just north of Alligator Alley (I-75). For more info, see www.floridapanther.org.

ORCHID SHOW & SALE

The Naples Orchid Society holds its 35th annual orchid show on **March 14, 15, & 16** at Naples United Church of Christ on the corner of Crayton Road and Seagate Drive (close to Waterside Shops). Hours are Friday, 3-6:30 pm; Saturday, 9 am to 5 pm; and Sunday noon to 4 pm. For info, phone 403-7155 or see www.naplesorchidsociety.org.



VISIONS OF BIG CYPRESS

The work of photographer and artist Deborah N. Mitchell is on show at the Oasis Visitor Center until April 20. She was an Artist-in-Residence at Big Cypress National Preserve during 2007. Her website is www.deborahmitchellart.com. For info about the visitor center, phone 695-1201.

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Collier County Public Library is selling off redundant books, videos, DVDs, and other materials at the library at 650 Central Avenue in Naples from **Friday, March 14 to Wednesday, March 19**, (except Sunday). Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. For info, phone 261-8208.

MEMORIES

“A Crow Tale”

by Barbara Hoffman Daniels

One day I heard a knocking sound. It was rather erratic but loud. I left my sewing room intending to go to my front door when I suddenly realized the sound came from my bedroom. I look up at the clear window pane over the air conditioner and was face to face and eyeball to eyeball with old “Move it out”, a crow I had made friends with. I suppose next he will be wanting to come in and sit at the table with me. What a life! Needless to say, I made him “move it out” away from the window pane where he was beating a hard and loud tattoo. It wouldn't have surprised me too much to have heard him say “Nevermore!”.

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.

OBITUARY

Mary Lou Rogers, 76, passed away February 25, 2008, in Apopka, FL. Born in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, one of nine children to H.K. and Thelma Mincey, April, 1932. She lived in Dania, FL, until 2007, because of illness moved to Apopka, to live with a brother.

She is survived by her son, Capt. Herb Kehoe of Chokoloskee, FL, one granddaughter Kristine LaBonte of Dania Beach, FL, two sisters Helen (Jim) Bryan of Chokoloskee, FL, and Naomi Rarig of Sebring, FL, two brothers H. Michael (Cheryl) Mincey of Apopka, James (Jowanna) Mincey of Ft. Drum, FL, Mary Anna Mincey (sister in law) of Tangerine, FL, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by parents H.K. and Thelma Mincey, two brothers Clovis G. and Floyd E. Mincey, two sisters, Myrtle (Bill) Prather and Thelma Ruth Kressin.

In accordance with Mary Lou's wishes, she will be cremated and a private ceremony for the family will be arranged by her son at a later date.

CHAMBER HAS NEW OFFICE

The Chamber of Commerce has moved its office from the Tower Building to City Hall. Manager Winnie Thomas can still be reached on 695-3172.

TUESDAY AIRCO SERVICE

Ricky Smith of Deano's A/C & Heating will be in the ECity area every Tuesday from 9 am to 5 pm and is offering a \$30 service call during those times. See his ad on page 6.

TENNIS PLAYERS WANTED!

Tennis, anyone? The informal group that meets every morning at 8:30 on the courts in McLeod Park are looking for players. Everyone is welcome ... just show up with your racquet. And, thanks to all for keeping the courts in good shape, even if you don't play.

VIP Report

by Shirley Leonard

You've heard of OUI and DUI. What about BUI?



OUI – Operating Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs.

DUI – Driving Under the Influence.

BUI – Boating Under the Influence.

Once upon a time long, long ago people in boats including pilots, captains, first mates and passengers considered drinking an integral part of the boating experience. Despite many tragic boating accidents some people *still* believe boating and boozing go together.

In February Everglades National Park Service rangers arrested three boaters for being under the influence while operating their vessels. Rumors circulating around Everglades City and Chokoloskee have it that a resident was arrested not because he was drunk but because he lied to a ranger. Not so, according to Gulf Coast District Ranger Kevin Donnell.

“A lot of things depend on the individual,” Donnell said. “You can have an open container on board, but you need to use your best judgment that you aren't overdoing it ... My message is we are trying to make these waters safe for everyone.”

The following agencies enforce boating regulations in waters off Everglades City and Chokoloskee:

- 1) National Park Service (NPS)
- 2) U. S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- 3) Marine units of Monroe and Collier county sheriff departments
- 4) Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- 5) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – 10,000 Islands National Wildlife Refuge
- 6) Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC)

Only two sets of governmental regulations apply to BUI: state and federal. County police enforce state regulations; FWCC and DEP enforce state regs; U. S. Coast Guard, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service enforce federal regulations, Donnell said.

State and federal guidelines to determine if the vessel's operator is under the influence are identical. These guidelines do *not* apply to passengers in the boat.

- 1) A breathalyzer or blood level of .08 or higher;
- 2) For someone under the legal drinking age of 21, what's called the .02 Rule applies. If the blood alcohol level exceeds .02, the driver can be charged.
3. Should an officer believe a driver is behaving as if he is under the influence, *even if a breath test is less than .08*, he can arrest and charge the driver with “impaired boating,” Donnell said.

Lt. Mark Milligan of Collier County Sheriff's Department noted that federal, county and state penalties vary.

“Sometimes the federal penalties are higher than the county's, sometimes lower,” Milligan said.

More information on federal regulations can be found on the U.S. Coast Guard web site, <http://usgboating.org>

For state boating enforcement information contact The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Farris Bryant Building, 620 So. Meridian St., Tallahassee, 32399-1600. Phone: 1-888-404-FWCC. The FWCC's web site is www.myfwc.com/boating/safety

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