

# *The MULLET RAPPER*

## What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2008

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P O Box 617, Everglades City, FL, 34139

Volume II • Issue #51

### SCHOOL BOARD IN ECITY

On Tuesday, March 18, the Collier County School Board gathered at Everglades City School. Principal Bobby Jones welcomed the Board and Superintendent Dr. Dennis Thompson and thanked the District for their quick response after the tornado on Tuesday, February 12, in helping to clean up the crab traps and buoys that were scattered throughout the campus and playground. He also thanked the Superintendent for being supportive of our school programs and scheduling. Attendees and the Board were treated to a dinner of stone crabs, seafood, finger sandwiches, fruit and desserts provided by the local restaurants.



#### SIGN OF SPRING

There is at least one chick in the Bald Eagles' nest at the Fakahatchee Boardwalk on US-41 (about 7 miles west of Carnestown). Thanks to Friends of Fakahatchee members Niki and Jim Woodard for this photo. See page 9 about the FOF 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Dinner.

#### Emails do work!!

by Patty Huff

When I noticed that nothing had been done to repair the bridge coming into town and the bridge on the causeway going to Chokoloskee, I emailed our County Commissioner, Jim Coletta, who had his executive aide, Lisa Resnick, assign a County's Agency Issue Management System (AIMS) number to the request and forward it to the appropriate department. Within two days, county workers were here to start repairs on both bridges. If you have any questions or want something done under County jurisdiction, email [JimColetta@colliergov.net](mailto:JimColetta@colliergov.net). So, thank you, Commissioner Coletta for responding so quickly. If there is an issue with City business, contact Dottie Smallwood or Mayor Sammy Hamilton at 695-3781.

### MANATEE ZONE PLANS REVISED

The National Park has reconsidered the proposed alternatives after the public meeting on January 16 and subsequent comment. The new plan will be presented on **Wednesday, March 26**, at 6:30 p.m. at the School, after which comments are welcome until **April 26**.

The ENP press release that announced the meeting says:

A focused working group, with vast local knowledge from a wide variety of backgrounds, has worked with park staff to design an alternative management option that uses the best available scientific data and local input to create an alternative that offers enhanced protection for manatees while providing safe public access through the waters within the AIP in Everglades National Park.

The revised alternative establishes Slow Speed Zones within areas of high manatee density and 30 Mile Per Hour zones that allow for safe navigation of the area's shallow waters while preventing prop dredging in Chokoloskee Bay.

The preferred alternative should reduce impacts on water quality, seagrass, and other submerged resources while improving protection for manatees and their habitat

For more info, see the park website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/> and select Everglades NP.

Our local Ranger Kevin Donnell, who is concerned with this matter, can be contacted at 695-4217.



**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**  
For a schedule of Easter services  
and restaurants, see page 11.

#### CONTENTS

Calendar	p. 2	Fishing	p. 8
Tides	p. 3	Swamp Tales	p. 8
Events	p. 3	Memories	p. 8
School	p. 5	Local History	p. 9
Recipe	p. 7	Treasures	p. 10
Books	p. 7	VIP Report	p. 11

**FEATURE: "A Linc Letter", page 10**

# MARCH/APRIL 2008

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
16 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Everglades Community Church 7 pm	17 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	18 <b>Reach Out</b> Comm. Church 8:30 a.m. <b>Big Cypress ORV mtg</b> 3:30 pm, see p.1 <b>School Board</b> School, 3:30 pm	19 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Jan Brock's at the Estuary, 8 am <b>OFCD Board Special Meeting</b> Fire Sta, 6 pm	20 <b>"Tommie"</b> Museum, 2 pm <b>Lions Club</b> Bd Mtg, 5:30 pm <b>Maunday Thursday Service</b> ECC, 7 pm	full moon ● 21 <b>Good Friday</b> <b>No School</b> <b>Good Friday Services</b> Holy Family, 3 pm ECC, 7 pm	22 <b>Easter Egg Hunt</b> Chok Church of God, 10 am see p.11
23 <b>Easter Sunday Sunrise Service</b> Natl Park, 7 am see p.11	24 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm	25 <b>SAC</b> School, 3 pm	26 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Pat Rinkevich's Home, 8 am <b>Manatee Zones</b> School, 6:30 pm see p.1	27	28	29 <b>Pancake Fly-In</b> 10 am - noon <b>Fish Fry</b> Chok CoG 12:30 pm see p.3
30 <b>FOF Birthday Dinner</b> see p.9	31 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	APRIL 1 <b>Congressman</b> City Hall, 3 pm see p.3 <b>City Council</b> City Hall, 5:30 pm see p.3	2 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Triad Seafood 8 am	3 <b>Great Gators</b> School, 9:30 <b>ESHM mtg</b> City Hall, 10 am <b>Lions Club</b> Depot, 7 pm	4	5
new moon ○ 6	7 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm <b>FME mtg</b> Museum, 9 am	8	9 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Havana Cafe 8 am	10 <b>Chamber of Commerce</b> Bd Mtg, 5:30 pm	11	12
13	14 <b>Hour of Prayer</b> Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm <b>OFCD Board</b> Fire Sta, 6 pm	15	16 <b>Ladies Coffee</b> Everglades Scoop 8 am	17 <b>Lions Club</b> Bd Mtg, 5:30 pm	18	19

April 26-27: Pet Vet

April 26: Pancake Fly-In

April 26-27: Tamiami Trail 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration (see p.9)

May 3: Diamonds' Tea

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

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: 3/21 (9-11 am) 3/25 (noon - 2 pm) 3/28 (9-11 am) 4/7 (noon - 2pm)



**Pancake Fly-In**

The airport will host breakfast on **Saturday, March 29**, with pancakes, sausages, and hot coffee from 10 am to noon. Everyone is welcome! Come along to watch John Apte dramatically pick up his flying banner.



The OFCD water tender has been converted into a "foam truck" so it can deal with flammable liquids or other situations where water is ineffective.

**CONGRESSMAN'S AIDE HERE**

George Barton, aide to Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will be at City Hall on **Tuesday, April 1**, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. to talk with constituents.

**CRIME STOPPERS**

**Reward up to \$1,000. for information regarding Burglary at Havana Cafe on February 27. No need to give your name. Call 1-800-780-TIPS (8477).**

**MOBILE PET VET**

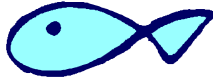
Dr Baker will be here on **Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and in Copeland from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. She will also visit on Sunday, April 27 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for surgery by appointment only. Phone 777-PETS.**

**OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT**

- 03/05/08: Medical Call Box Activation, 54m I-75
- 03/06/08: Child Choking, 63m I-75
- 03/06/08: Vehicle Accident, 55m I-75
- 03/07/08: Person Down, Everglades City
- 03/07/08: Vehicle Accident, 80m I-75
- 03/08/08: Chest Pains, Chokoloskee
- 03/09/08: Vehicle Accident, 50m I-75
- 03/09/08: Vehicle Fire, Dade-Collier Line
- 03/09/08: Person Fell, Everglades City
- 03/09/08: Trouble Breathing, SR-29 & I-75
- 03/09/08: Brush Fire, Big Cypress Bend
- 03/09/08: Brush Fire, 58m I-75
- 03/09/08: Person Fell, Big Cypress Wilderness Institute
- 03/10/08: Vehicle Accident, 56m I-75
- 03/11/08: Emergency Medical, Ochopee
- 03/12/08: Unresponsive Person, Everglades City
- 03/12/08: Diabetic, Chokoloskee, Cancelled
- 03/12/08: Fuel Spill, Everglades City
- 03/12/08: Vehicle Fire, SR-29 & US-41
- 03/13/08: Person Fell, Port of the Islands
- 03/13/08: Fire Alarm, Port of the Islands
- 03/13/08: Brush Fire, Ochopee, Cancelled
- 03/14/08: Fuel Spill, Chokoloskee, Cancelled
- 03/14/08: Heart Problems, US-41 at 50 Mile Bend, Cancelled
- 03/14/08: Vehicle Accident, 81m I-75
- 03/14/08: Child in Distress, 89m I-75
- 03/14/08: Vehicle Fire, 54m I-75
- 03/14/08: Chest Pains, Port of the Islands
- 03/15/08: Unknown Medical, Loop Road
- 03/15/08: Vehicle Fire, 52m I-75
- 03/15/08: Vehicle in Water, SR-29 & US-41
- 03/16/08: Person Fell, 63m I-75
- 03/16/08: Unknown Medical, 71m I-75, Cancelled
- 03/17/08: Chest Pains, SR-29 & US-41
- 03/17/08: Person Fell, Chokoloskee
- 03/17/08: Vehicle Accident, 74m I-75, Cancelled
- 03/18/08: Disturbance, Big Cypress Wilderness Institute, Cancelled
- 03/18/08: Vehicle Accident, 58m I-75, Cancelled

*Farewell to Firefighter Danny Morris who is retiring on March 27 after 23 years of service.*

**FISH FRY**



The menu on **Saturday, March 29**, at 12:30 p.m. is fried grouper, home-made baked beans, cole slaw, and all the trimmings at the Women's Ministry Missionary Fundraiser at the Chokoloskee Church of God.

**LIBRARY MEETING**

The Library Advisory Board will meet on **Tuesday, March 25**, at 9:30 a.m. in the library at 2385 Orange Blossom Road (on Airport-Pulling). Everyone is welcome to attend and speak.

**TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER**

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

03/21/2008	Fri	03:01AM	2.6	H	10:20AM	0.1	L	03:11PM	2.5	H	10:39PM	0.0	L
03/22/2008	Sat	03:38AM	2.5	H	10:52AM	0.2	L	03:32PM	2.6	H	11:16PM	-0.1	L
03/23/2008	Sun	04:15AM	2.5	H	11:22AM	0.3	L	03:54PM	2.7	H	11:53PM	-0.1	L
03/24/2008	Mon	04:55AM	2.3	H	11:47AM	0.4	L	04:17PM	2.7	H			
03/25/2008	Tue	12:30AM	-0.1	L	05:40AM	2.1	H	12:07PM	0.6	L	04:40PM	2.6	H
03/26/2008	Wed	01:11AM	-0.1	L	06:33AM	2.0	H	12:14PM	0.7	L	05:04PM	2.6	H
03/27/2008	Thu	02:00AM	0.0	L	07:37AM	1.8	H	12:15PM	0.7	L	05:34PM	2.5	H
03/28/2008	Fri	03:00AM	0.1	L	08:56AM	1.7	H	12:25PM	0.8	L	06:15PM	2.4	H
03/29/2008	Sat	04:13AM	0.1	L	07:32PM	2.3	H						
03/30/2008	Sun	05:25AM	0.1	L	10:01PM	2.3	H						
03/31/2008	Mon	06:25AM	0.1	L	12:48PM	2.0	H	06:36PM	0.8	L	11:21PM	2.4	H
04/01/2008	Tue	07:14AM	0.0	L	01:08PM	2.2	H	07:27PM	0.7	L			
04/02/2008	Wed	12:21AM	2.5	H	07:57AM	0.0	L	01:32PM	2.3	H	08:11PM	0.5	L
04/03/2008	Thu	01:12AM	2.6	H	08:37AM	0.0	L	01:55PM	2.5	H	08:53PM	0.2	L
04/04/2008	Fri	01:58AM	2.7	H	09:15AM	0.1	L	02:18PM	2.6	H	09:35PM	0.0	L

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# SCHOOL NEWS

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website: [www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg](http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/evg)

## IMPORTANT DATES

- Fri, 3/21:** Good Friday, No School
- 3/11-3/25:** FCAT (Reading, Science, Maths)
- Tues, 3/25:** SAC, 3:00 p.m.
- Fri, 3/28:** "Dr Seuss", Library
- Fri, 3/28:** Baseball (home), 5:00 p.m.
- 3/31-4/4:** Spring Recess



### *From Savannah's Eyes*

It is almost spring and I know it because all of the flowers that I see in the Everglades are blooming. Also, Easter is almost here. I love Spring because I get to go swim in the pool when it is hot. Also, I get to run around in the yard with my puppy. It is a lot of fun and when she gets tired, she pants and it is so cute. I also like it when it is Easter because I like to help my niece and nephew hunt Easter eggs. When they get an egg they say "Oooohh". We have lots of fun doing that. Also I love Spring break because we get out of school for a week and I get to spend time with my friends and family and do lots of fun things like riding my bike and looking at all the beautiful flowers and trees on the paths where we ride and go out on the boat to the beautiful islands to see the birds and dolphins. I really love doing that. And, I do lots of other things too. I love to have fun outdoors. That is why Spring is the best season for me!. Have a nice Easter.

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



5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>: Linzy Fails, Trevyr Daniels, Paige Robinson-Hilton, Kristin McMillin

Volunteers should register by using this web page: <http://www.collier.k12.fl.us/about/communityinvolvement.asp> and then click the link to "online application" in the second paragraph. Then click the "New User" and enter your information for user id and password that you want. It will then kick you back to log in with your newly created info.

## GREAT GATORS, FEBRUARY 2008



Pre-K & K: Evan Richards, Jesse Goff, Savannah Weeks, Madison Hart



1<sup>st</sup>: Jerry Pablo-Ramirez, Dustin Young, Cameron Jones, Alanna Humphreys



2<sup>nd</sup>: Ashlyn Goff, Davonte Detweiler, Scout Morris, (NOT PICTURED: Bryan Sanders)



3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>: Logan Foss, Braxton Kidder, Lilian Pablo-Jeronimo, Tawny Wood

*Thanks to Trina Mitchell for photos*

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*Recipe for Good Eating*

**Jiggs' Banana Chocolate Cake**  
 by Phyllis Brown



2 Packs Duncan Hines butter cake mix  
 6 eggs 1-2/3 cup water 2 sticks margarine

Cream margarine. Add cake mix, water, and eggs. Beat and put in floured and greased cake pans. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes. When cool, split layers in half. Mash 6 bananas, add a little sugar, and put bananas between layers. Make chocolate frosting and put on top.

**Chocolate Frosting**

Melt 1 stick butter, 4 tbsp cocoa, 6 tbsp buttermilk. Bring to boil, add 1 box powder sugar, 1 tsp vanilla, 1 cup nuts. Ice cake.

*This is just one of the many recipes in the new cookbook published by the Chokoloskee Church of God to commemorate their 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. To order copies, phone Martha at 695-3735 or Lessie at 695-4626.*

*Off The Shelf*

by Patty Huff



**“My Life in France” by Julia Child and Alex Prud’homme**  
**and**  
**“The Tenth Muse, My Life in Food” by Judith Jones**

For anyone who loves food and travel as much as I do, these two books are a must read. I enjoyed learning to cook different meals several years ago when I retired and had time to watch some of the food channels on television. I had only seen Julia Child’s cooking show a few times but I remember her as an entertaining and thoroughly at-ease lady who just loved cooking. Since I knew little about her life (and had never read her best-selling cookbook *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* which was first published in 1961 and has had forty editions since that time), I was completely captivated by her story. The book was written by Julia and her grandnephew Alex Prud’homme who is an accomplished writer and had always wanted to do a book about his famous aunt. Julia died at the age of 91 in 2004 during the final revisions of the book. This book is also a love story about Julia and her husband Paul Child whom she met during World War II in Ceylon while working for the OSS. It was through Paul’s work with the U.S. Information Service that took them to Paris where Julia learned to cook. She was 36 years old, did not speak a word of French and did not know how to cook. Always energetic and with a sense of adventure, Julia quickly learned the language and took courses in cooking, primarily for the purpose of preparing a good meal for her husband at night. She developed a love for French food, trying new recipes in her little kitchen in Paris, and eventually started her own cooking school with two other women. The book is well written with lots of personal notes by Julia. I think you’ll love it.

Julia Child’s cookbook would not have been published without the help of Judith Jones who is now a senior editor at Alfred A. Knopf which published *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*. After living in Paris just after WWII, Judith discovered her love of French food. Although both Julia Child and Judith Jones lived in Paris around the same time, they did not meet until 1959 when Judith received a huge manuscript on French cooking from Julia Child and her co-authors. She immediately started trying some of the recipes and it was then that she realized this was the “French” book she had been searching for. It reminded her of her days in France and her love of the food there. There is much more of Judith Jones’ life in this book (with recipes of her own). Again, if you enjoy cooking and adventures, I recommend this book as well.



## Fishing Report

by Capt Bill Lindsay

Warming waters should improve fishing for the "Big 3": tarpon, snook and redfish. Tarpon should start their annual migration up and

down the coast. That's not to say that some weren't here during the month of March. Carlos Solis fished with Captain Steve Huff and released one in the 130 lb class on fly. Big snook should start to show up in greater numbers, and redfish seem to feed better in warm weather. Although a cold front is less likely, afternoon sea breezes can make fishing along the Gulf difficult. I've found I get most of my best tarpon fishing in before lunch. In the backcountry baby tarpon start to show up in small creeks and drains that flow into the bays. Offshore on the shallow wrecks and rock piles, grouper fishing is at its best. Captain Brian Sanders caught 9 cobia out in the Gulf. Mark Purpura fished with me last week and took several nice snook including a 38" fish on plug tackle. Captain Herb Kehoe tells me that on days when he can't fish out in the Gulf he is finding plenty of small snook in the large bays in the backcountry. Captain Tim Brady has brought in a mixed bag of trout, redfish and black drum fishing with shrimp. In short, April should be a great month to fish in the Everglades.

*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.*



## Osprey Nesting Season

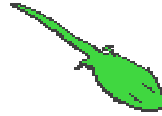
by Patty Huff

Visitors and residents alike enjoy watching the beautiful Osprey in our area, especially during nesting season. This particular Osprey's nest is very prominent along the

causeway between Everglades City and Chokoloskee. It has been there for several years, growing in height each year.

The Osprey will add to its home throughout the summer, repairing and adding new materials every year. Male and female couples usually share the same nest year after year. At the beginning of the breeding season, the male will fly high, then dive down and back up again. Nesting females normally lay an average of 3 eggs, warming them until they hatch. The male Osprey does all the fishing during this time and the following month when the young birds demand up to six fish per day. The young Osprey are able to fly after 7 to 9 weeks. It is important that no one disturbs the nest during this nesting season. In fact, it is a Federal offense. About half of young Osprey die the first year. The survivors have an average life span of 15 to 20 years and some may even live longer.

The electric pole supporting this Osprey nest will have to wait to be replaced until the nesting season is over. Another pole with a new dish across Hwy 29 has been erected for the Osprey to build another nest. In the meantime we can still enjoy watching and listening to these beautiful birds as they tend to their young.



## Swamp Tales

by Bob N. Wallace

We have a pond in our backyard in which we raise goldfish. They are great pets. Every morning, afternoon and evening my wife, Jane, goes out to feed them fish flakes. As the flakes float upon the water one of the goldfish, whose names given by her are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, breaks the surface of the water to gulp down the morsels she just threw to them. Soon, they all join in the frenzy. It is fun to watch.

However, something else is fun to watch in our pond. It will not be long until the fish have some visitors, in fact, many visitors. They are tadpoles, which come from tree frogs that live beside our pond and lay their eggs upon the water. Our little tree frogs are about three to four inches long, are light green and climb up the wall of our house with their suction cup feet that have four toes. They love to eat crickets, cockroaches, locusts, moths and beetles. A tree frog has a big voice and makes a lot of noise after it rains.

A tree frog is an amphibian that lays its eggs in water, which after a few weeks hatch into tiny tadpoles. It is fun to watch them wiggling in the water. They seem so tiny, yet they grow very rapidly. It can take weeks to months for some tadpoles to develop into frogs. That is when their metamorphosis begins and they lose their tails and develop their legs. It is a fascinating time in a tadpole's life. Soon they are large enough to leave the water, sit on lily pads, eat mosquitoes and crickets, and join the 3900 species of frogs in the world for a life span of five to seven years. What a life!

*Bob N. Wallace is Pastor of Everglades Community Church and the author of a new book The CONVENTION which was reviewed in the Rapper on 3/7/08 and is available at Right Choice Supermarket or from the publisher at 695-2905.*

## MEMORIES

### "A Gator Tale"

by Barbara Hoffman Daniels

I was traveling from here to there the other day out here on Birdon Road when suddenly I saw something crossing the road in a slow, humping fashion and just as dusty as the road. I thought it first to be an otter heading back to the canal but on closer observance I noticed it was a small gator about three and a half feet long. Having taken his sun and dust bath and now so rudely disturbed, he was headed back to the canal. I have seen gators many times in the middle of a dusty road. Maybe it's their dinosaur genes?

*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.*





## LOCAL HISTORY

Naples artist Paul Arsenault shared with us his wonderful oil painting of the historic Bula Baptist Mission church in Copeland which he painted in the 1980's. He was fascinated with the old logging town and said that at in the 1980's there were four of these logging cottages in the village near the Church. Now there is one still standing behind the Church.

The Church was given to Ms. Frances Hodge as the oldest living member of the Church after storms damaged the building. Ms. Frances wanted it to be restored as a Community Center. She died in August of last year just before her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Mayor Sammy Hamilton is in the process of finding funds to help restore the building with J.L. Bruce Construction Company reconstructing the old Church.

We are grateful that Paul Arsenault is sharing his stories of the old Church. If you have information about its history or are interested in helping with its restoration, please call Patty Huff, President of the Everglades Society for Historical Preservation, at 695-2397.



## ANOTHER BIRTHDAY!

The Friends of Fakahatchee was formed ten years ago to help our local state park and they are celebrating with a gala dinner on **Sunday, March 30**. Founding members of FOF include Barbara Lewinski, Cindy Hackney, and other fans of the Fak from as far away as Miami and Ft Myers.

The Anniversary Dinner, held at the Seafood Depot, features an illustrated presentation "A Year in the Fak" by Dennis Giardina, until recently the Park Manager. A highlight of the evening will be the drawing of the door prize, a photograph donated by Rick Cruz.

The Fakahatchee was logged extensively until the 1950s; the "trams" for the logging trains still radiate out from Janes Scenic Drive and are used as hiking paths. In 1966 parts of the Fak was bought by GAC and chopped up into housing lots. The state began buying land to create Fakahatchee Strand State Preserve in 1974 after lobbying by Miami conservationist Mel Finn and others.

The Friends of Fakahatchee now have 275 members, many of whom are active volunteers. They focus on the Boardwalk on US-41, greeting visitors and keeping it tidy, but they also help clear brush in other parts of the park, lead swamp walks or canoe trips, and maintain Janes Drive. For info, phone Marya at 695-2905 or see [www.friendsoffakahatchee.org](http://www.friendsoffakahatchee.org).

## MUSEUM NEWS



Photo Thanks to Helen Gorecki

The exhibition of Walter Gorecki's watercolors and acrylics was well-received at the reception on Saturday, March 9, where over 140 people enjoyed refreshments and live music. You can see his one-man show at the Museum until the end of March.

## TAMIAMI TRAIL 80<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATION

### JOIN THE PARADE!



One of the many events during the weekend of April 26/27 will be a grand parade on Saturday and everyone is invited to join in.

Participants already committed are The Naples & Marco Island Antique Car Club, the Collier County Sheriff's Office with an Honor Guard and Mounted Patrols, and the Ochopee Fire Control District. The lead car will carry Barron Collier III, honorary grand marshal of the parade, and other dignitaries.

The theme of the parade is "The Roaring Twenties" to commemorate the completion of the Trail in 1928.



The parade in Everglades City will start at 11:30 a.m. but participants should be there by 11:00 a.m. to get their places and line up. The Parade Master will have sole discretion in allocating positions in the parade.

For more info or to get an application, phone Carol at 695-2159 or see [www.tamiami80.com](http://www.tamiami80.com) where you can download a form.



Twenty-two local ladies enjoyed the "Chick Cruise" this year to Aruba and other islands. This has become an annual event for anyone interested in traveling with neighbors and friends. For more information on plans for next year, call Sue Turner at 695-2374.

## One Woman's Treasures

You've heard that "one man's trash is another man's treasure." There is one lady here who has found discarded or "lost" items which have significance to her. She's intrigued about the history that is behind the many pieces of china, old bottles, fishing lures and other "treasures" she has found in the mud and muck from the river.



Sue McPherson has been coming to Everglades City for the past 12 years, initially with her husband Harvey who died a few years ago, and now by herself. She's met new friends and enjoys our small fishing village along the Barron River. This year Sue has been digging in the dirt and found interesting items such as a beaded purse with a 1971 quarter inside, bottles with the label "Royal Palm Beverage" (with a palm tree insignia), a "square" Ball jar, old milk bottles, and a bottle with the inscription "Dr. W. B. Caldwell's".

## A Linc Letter



Hi Folks;

Lately I been spendin' some time thinkin' how it is 'getting old'.

From childhood on up most 'uv us couldn't hardly wait ta 'grow up'. Early on in childhood there wasn't much difference between boys & girls. There were generalities, girls on the masculine side were called 'Tom Boys' and boys on the feminine side were called 'Sissies'. We played more or less together – baseball, football, 'jax', mumble-de-peg, skippin' tha rope – all that stuff – and then those years when the 'hormones' set in and some 'uv us got pimples, our beards started ta grow or breasts enlarge. Most 'uv us paired off, made homes, settled down and raised families - startin' the whole process over again. Most 'uv us were so busy that we just never connected that there were other cultures, other religions and cycles – 'uv war & peace – economic prosperity and collapse. We're bombarded with "Buy and Save" - "Eat and Get Slim". Now cum on, how do ya do that? How far do you accommodate other cultures, other languages, other religions?

A year or so ago I gave ya 'uh few lines from "Alfie" – what's it all about, Alfie? Life is a journey – have ya sped passed 'uh lot 'uv good scenery - have ya taken tha time ta 'smell tha roses? Ta give 'uh helpin' hand ta someone in trouble? What 'uhbout "Planet Earth" – do ya have some feelin' for tha flora & fauna? Are ya helpin' ta leave tha world uh better place? Well it has ta start someplace - it kinda has ta tart with each & everyone uv us.

Now for tha last 5 or 6 years I been thinkin' 'uhbout getting' old. I wuz 90 years old then and tha realization set in that I wuz old. One by one, I wuz havin' ta give up something that I used ta do with ease. I remembered years & years ago when my mother complained ta me that she wuz havin' 'uh hard time winding tha clock & I could'nt comprehend her inability to perform this simple function. Today I have tha some trouble, windin' tha same clock - what changed? Same old clock, made in 1878 or so - but not tha same old Linc, made in 1912! I can't remember just when I learned how to put my shoes on or how ta 'button' 'em up (yep, back then most shoes were buttoned up, with 'uh shoe hook!). Later I learned how ta lace 'em up and tie 'em. Now, at 96, puttin' on my socks & shoes is my most difficult task in dressin' every mornin'! Kinda cum 'full circle!'

We're movin' Bea & me. We down sizin', needin' help with our daily chores. So we've changed from bein' "accumulators" to bein' dispensers! Tha necessities are becoming real "necessities" but tha 'Toys' are hard ta give up - they were our friends – our playmates. So I'll say ta you 'younger folks' readin' these letters, ya just might want ta save some 'uv 'em, file 'em away and use 'em as roadmaps & check points as ta how you're progressin on this Journey. And don't forget ta 'give some back' 'cause ya can't take any with ya!

Love ya,

Linc & Bea

**Our thanks to Lincoln Frost for sharing his letter and thoughts with Rapper readers.**



## VIP Report

by Shirley Leonard

### *Why do Visitors Come Here?*

For first January issue of *The Mullet Rapper* I reported that:

“In the week leading up to and including Christmas Day, the total visitor count was 1,955 (Dec. 18 through 25). The week after, Dec. 26 through 31, the count more than doubled to 3,998. These numbers come from an electronic counter at the center’s front door and are reasonably accurate.”

Given the increases in the cost of gasoline, most of us have been expecting tourism to decline this year from last year. Overall, worldwide, that might be the case. As of the end of February it was an accurate prediction for the Everglades National Park as a whole. At Everglades City’s ENP Visitor Center, however, the number of visitors *increased* over the same period in 2007.

	ECity VC	Entire Park
2008 (1/1-2/29)	27,873	201,667
2007 (1/1-2/28)	26,238	210,298
	-----	-----
difference	+1,635	- 8,631

March visitors to EC as of March 15<sup>th</sup> this year also exceed March 2007’s numbers, 5,992 to 5,021.

Park attendance here in Everglades City is increasing instead of decreasing as predicted. Why?

What is there about Everglades City and its visitor center that’s different from the main entrance and visitor center in Homestead? Is there something unique, to be found only here, nowhere else in the park?

The Homestead entrance to the park is 99 miles from here. To drive through that part of the park to its furthest point accessible by car, Flamingo, is another 38 miles. Could it be that the costs of gasoline give people pause about travelling that extra distance? In a car that gets 20 miles per gallon, it would take about seven gallons of gas. At \$3.40/gallon that would come to \$22.80. For anyone on a tight budget, cost would definitely be part of the answer.

What else would explain EC’s popularity? Its 10,000 Islands tour boat rides? Back country canoeing, kayaking and camping? EC’s Museum of the Everglades? Its restaurants? The Rod and Gun Club? Air boat rides? Lodging? The Ted Smallwood Store in Chokoloskee, just three miles from the visitor center?

What about EC’s residents? Could it be their friendliness, welcoming attitudes?

I started writing this column thinking I’d come to some conclusions as I mulled it over. I find I remain somewhat puzzled why EC draws more than the other side of the park.

Anyone who can help explain this visitor center’s and Everglades City’s popularity, please write or e-mail your thoughts to me. Am I forgetting or overlooking something about EC’s attractiveness to tourists?

My e-mail address is [ReporterSr@verizon.net](mailto:ReporterSr@verizon.net). Postal address is PO Box 352, Everglades City, FL 34139.

*Shirley is a “Volunteer-In-Parks” (thus, VIP) at Everglades National Park at the Gulf Coast Visitor Center in Everglades City. She is a regular contributor to the Rapper.*

## EASTER WEEKEND

### GOOD FRIDAY, MARCH 21:

3:00 p.m. Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church.

7:00 p.m. Service at Everglades Community Church.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 22:

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt at Chokoloskee Church of God (bring 3 colored eggs).

### EASTER SUNDAY, MARCH 23:

7:00 a.m. Sunrise Service at Everglades National Park, participation by all churches, followed by coffee & donuts at Everglades Community Church.

10:30 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Catholic Church.

11:00 a.m. Service at Everglades Community Church. (no fellowship afterwards)

11:00 a.m. Service at Everglades First Baptist Church.

11:00 a.m. Service at Copeland Baptist Church (no evening service).

11:00 a.m. Service at Chokoloskee Church of God.

## RESTAURANT NEWS

### OPEN on EASTER SUNDAY:

JT’s will offer, besides their usual menu, a special holiday menu consisting of: Roast Turkey, Leg of Lamb, Fresh Fish (market availability), side dishes, and homemade desserts.  
Hours are 11 am to 7 pm.

Seafood Depot will add Ham to their regular Fried Chicken Bar.  
Hours are 10:30 am to 9 pm.

City Seafood: 11 am to 9 pm  
Rod & Gun: 11:30 am to 9 pm  
Oyster House: 11 am to 9 pm.

### CLOSED on EASTER SUNDAY:

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Everglades Scoop  
Havana Cafe  
Joanie’s Blue Crab Cafe  
Triad Seafood

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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](mailto: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

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