

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, MAY 30, 2008

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NEW LOOK IN CITY HALL CHAMBERS

When our City Council meets next August, there will be a new desk area. In the center the Mayor will sit with the City Clerk and the five council members will have seating on either side at an angle.

Our City workers keep our streets clean and palm trees trimmed. Everyone appreciates their hard work.



INDEPENDENCE DAY

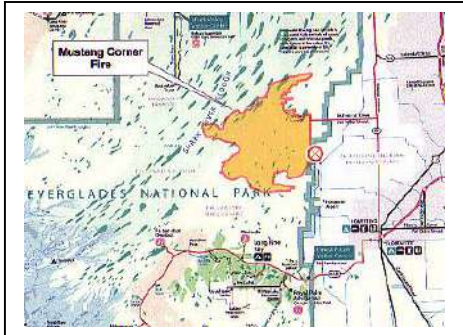
The theme of the parade during our festivities on Sunday, July 6, will be "Celebrating Independence Day" and entrants should add their names to the list by phoning Elaine at 695-2695.

Vendors are wanted for "Art in the Glades" on July 6. If you have arts & crafts or anything else to sell, phone Marya at 695-2905.

Water Quality Update

According to U.S. Water Services Corporation, the results of the laboratory analyses (TTHM and Haa5 levels) of the water for Everglades City area have been well within (or below) the acceptable range limits since Dec. 2007 so there has been no need to issue reports this year. An Annual Consumer Confidence Report will be released July 1. If your water is discolored or you are concerned about the quality, contact U.S. Water at (866) 753-8292, ext. 207.

The City reported that they are starting a new water billing system and a letter will be sent with the next bill to explain the new format.



Park Fire Now Contained

On May 14 a fire was reported in the Everglades National Park west of Krome Avenue and south of the Chekika Visitor Center. Within days the fire had spread, covering nearly 40,000 acres. By Saturday, May 24, 85% of the fire had been contained due to the combined efforts of many dedicated fire fighters and volunteers. More than 250 personnel were needed to help fight this area's fire. At one point prison officials and inmates from the Everglades Correctional Facility, Krome Detention Center and Geo Corp facility had to be evacuated. Further inquiries or information about the fire should be directed to Linda Friar, PAO Everglades National Park by phone at (305) 242-7714 or visit website: www.inciweb.org and click on Mustang Corner Fire.

Camellia Street Grill End of Season Event – Saturday, May 31 See page 3 for more information

Hurricane Season Starts on June 1 For the official forecasts, see website <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/> which has maps and warnings.

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Clyde Butcher Summer Lecture, p. 11

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

MAY / JUNE 2008

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
25 Pet Vet see p.3	26 Memorial Day Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm	27	28 Ladies Coffee Everglades Scoop 8 am Great Gators School, 9:30	29 Last Day of School, early release	30	31 Clyde Butcher's Lecture 1:00 pm Big Cypress Gallery (see p.11)
JUNE 1 Hurricane Season Starts	2 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm Airboats/ORVs in BigC, see p.11	new moon ○ 3 Aide to Congressman Mario Diaz- Balart City Hall, 3 pm see p.3	4 Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	5 Lions Club Depot, 7 pm	6	7
8	9 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm FME mtg Museum, 10 am OFCD Board Fire Sta, 6 pm	10	11 Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	12	13	14
15	16 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm Summer Camp see p.5	17 Reach Out City Hall 8:30 am	full moon ● 18 Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	19 Lions Club Bd Mtg, 5:30 pm Copeland Civic Association 7 pm	20	21
22	23 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm	24	25 Ladies Coffee TBA 8 am	26	27	28

July 6: Independence Day Celebration

Summer School/Camp: June 16 - July 18

Aug 19: School Starts Again

August 30 - Sept 1: Clyde Butcher's Labor Day "Muck-About", phone 695-2428 for reservations

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Fri, Sat, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm (new hours)

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 11 am to 5 pm

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

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: Wed, 5 pm, Community Church

CHRIST-CENTERED ADDICTION RECOVERY PROGRAM, Chokoloskee Church of God, phone 695-4626 for schedule

SHERIFF AT CITY HALL: May 30 (9-11 am), June 3 (9-11 am), June 4 (10 am-noon), June 6 (noon-2 pm), June 9 (10 am-noon), June 11 (9-11 am), June 12 (10 am - noon), June 17 (9-11 am), June 18 (10 am-noon)

Holy Family Catholic Church closed until December. Mass at St. Finbar's (on US-41 south of CR-951): Sat, 4:30 pm and Sun, 10 am

OBITUARIES

William L. Higgins, father of Brenda Hamilton and father-in-law of Mayor Sammy Hamilton, passed away on May 22 in Naples. A service will be held on Friday, May 30, at 10:00 a.m. at Shepherd of the Glades Lutheran Church in Naples.



David Bozzard passed away in hospital on May 27. He leaves his wife Kim of Everglades City and daughter Laura of Lakeland, FL, plus relatives in England where he grew up. He was a talented builder who had recently worked on the cabana at the Seafood Depot. Arrangements will be announced at a later date.

RESTAURANT NEWS



- Camellia Street Grill is closing for the season on June 1. This Saturday, May 31, a special smorgasbord at a set price will be offered beginning at 1 pm.**
- Everglades Scoop now has new hours: 11 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday.**
- Glades Haven Deli has new hours: 6 am to 6 pm Sunday through Thursday, and 6 am to 9 pm on Friday and Saturday.**
- Havana Café will open again in the fall, serving breakfast and lunch.**



Marya Repko spoke at The Plaza Community Gallery in Naples, Thursday, May 15, about her book "A Brief History of the Everglades City Area." She had a very supportive audience comprised of friends from Chokoloskee, Everglades City, and Copeland as well as the Naples area. We're proud of Marya's talents, contributions and her great support to our Everglades community.

Helen Bryan

Walter and Sunny Burke celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary at the Seafood Depot with friends and family.



Photo by Helen Bryan

MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will not be here during June.



OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 05/16/08: Chest Pains, 77m I-75
- 05/16/08: Trailer Fire, 60m I-75
- 05/17/08: Vehicle Accident, SR-29 and I-75
- 05/17/08: Possible Assault, Plantation Island
- 05/17/08: Person Down, Everglades City
- 05/19/08: Vehicle Accident, 67m I-75
- 05/19/08: Emergency Medical, Everglades City Fire Station
- 05/20/08: Person Fell, Port of the Islands
- 05/21/08: Vehicle Accident, 59m I-75
- 05/22/08: Vehicle Accident, 66m I-75
- 05/23/08: Emergency Medical, Port of the Islands
- 05/23/08: Vehicle Accident, 60m I-75
- 05/24/08: Unknown Medical Problem, 79m I-75
- 05/26/08: Assault Victim, Plantation Island
- 05/26/08: Vehicle Accident, 80m I-75
- 05/26/08: Vehicle Accident, Ochopee
- 05/26/08: Brush Fire, 55m I-75
- 05/28/08: Vehicle Accident, 66m I-75

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Lt. Mark Milligan commented at a recent Reach Out meeting that residents need to be more careful about leaving valuables in their boats and cars. Recent thefts have included fishing tackle and a truck with the keys inside. If you are interested in a Neighborhood Watch Training Program, contact Sue Gentry in the Crime Prevention Bureau at 774-4434.

CONGRESSIONAL AIDE

George Barton, aide to Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will welcome constituents on **Tuesday, June 3**, in City Hall at 3:00 p.m. To talk with him before that, phone 348-1620

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

05/30/2008	Fri	06:17AM	0.5	L	11:29AM	2.7	H	07:14PM	0.1	L
05/31/2008	Sat	12:39AM	2.3	H	07:06AM	0.6	L	12:04PM	2.9	H
06/01/2008	Sun	01:43AM	2.4	H	07:55AM	0.7	L	12:41PM	3.1	H
06/02/2008	Mon	02:41AM	2.5	H	08:44AM	0.7	L	01:19PM	3.4	H
06/03/2008	Tue	03:36AM	2.5	H	09:33AM	0.8	L	02:01PM	3.5	H
06/04/2008	Wed	04:31AM	2.4	H	10:21AM	0.8	L	02:46PM	3.6	H
06/05/2008	Thu	05:26AM	2.4	H	11:10AM	0.8	L	03:35PM	3.5	H
06/06/2008	Fri	12:17AM	-0.5	L	06:19AM	2.3	H	12:00PM	0.8	L
06/07/2008	Sat	01:07AM	-0.4	L	07:09AM	2.3	H	12:55PM	0.7	L
06/08/2008	Sun	01:58AM	-0.2	L	07:55AM	2.3	H	01:58PM	0.7	L
06/09/2008	Mon	02:50AM	0.0	L	08:38AM	2.4	H	03:12PM	0.7	L
06/10/2008	Tue	03:45AM	0.2	L	09:21AM	2.4	H	04:30PM	0.6	L
06/11/2008	Wed	04:41AM	0.4	L	10:03AM	2.5	H	05:41PM	0.4	L
06/12/2008	Thu	05:36AM	0.6	L	10:46AM	2.5	H	06:41PM	0.3	L
06/13/2008	Fri	12:15AM	2.0	H	06:28AM	0.7	L	11:28AM	2.6	H

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SCHOOL NEWS

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon, June 16 Summer School/Camp Starts
Fri, July 18 Summer School/Camp Ends
Tues, August 19 School Starts



From Savannah's Eyes

Hooray, I can't believe it!! School is almost over. I am so glad. This school year was the best, and I hope that next year will be even better. I'm going into sixth grade (middle school). I am so excited

about summer! But, I am going to miss school. I am very thankful for what my teachers teach me, and I am going to miss them. But, I am glad that I get to spend time with family and friends, especially my Mom and Dad. They are the best. I just love them; and my friends; I will get to see them. I am totally going to have an awesome summer. I hope that you will, too! Let there be peace, Savannah

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

SUMMER SCHOOL / CAMP

Summer School will be starting on June 16 and run through July 18 with hours from 8 am to noon. Letters have been sent to the parents for students attending school this summer.



The Summer Camp for kids aged 4 through 5th grade will start on June 16 and run until July 18. Older students can sign up as Counselors in Training. This free fun & educational activity group is operated by Reach Out Everglades & COPS. To register phone Pam Drake at 695-2843 or Helen Bryan at 695-3298.

FCAT Scores

Everglades City School 3rd grade reading and math scores were released last week. The students scored 300 compared to 316 last year. This is below the state average of 313 and the Collier County average of 307. The percentage of students who scored at level 3 or higher was 58% compared to 73% in 2007. Again below state percentage of 72% and county percentage of 68%. However, for mathematics, the 3rd grade students scored higher than the previous year: 293 compared to 274, and 42% compared to 27% but still below state and county averages.

GRADUATION NIGHT

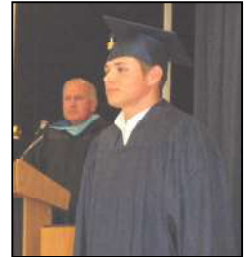
Everglades City may not have had the largest graduating class in the County, but they certainly had the most support from their community. Well over 100 people came out to congratulate the students who proudly walked during the processional "Pomp and Circumstance" played by pianist Betty Oglesby. Jerrett Oakes was unable to attend so only two students, James Ridgway and Teala Stokes, received their diplomas presented to them by school principal Mr. Bobby Jones on Friday, May 23. Superintendent Dr. Dennis Thompson gave the Commencement Address after



Teala Stokes' speech about her years at Everglades City School and the challenges ahead. Class President James Ridgway led the "turning of the tassels" and teacher Paul Tribble sang his inspirational "Friends" song. Everglades City has always supported our




small community school and has shown its pride with every graduating class; this one was no different. We hope our School Board understands that no matter how many students graduate from here each year, every student is important and this community comes together to honor its rural



school, teachers and students. Congratulations, Jerrett, Teala, and James!!! We're proud of you and wish you the best in your future endeavors.




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ROGG

by Patricia Huff

What is the River of Grass Greenway?

It is a proposed multi-use pathway across the Everglades along the Tamiami Trail. Many times as you drive on US-41 to Naples, you will see bicyclists carrying groceries to their homes in the newly developed subdivisions or you may see touring cyclists who are traveling across the State on the only rural road going from coast to coast south of SR-80 (which connects Ft. Myers to Palm Beach). Bicyclists are not allowed on interstate highways. My husband and I have biked over thousands of miles throughout 22 states and have discovered that more and more states are converting old railroad beds to multi-use paths and established greenways. The East Coast Greenway is in the process of linking Key West to the northern tip of Maine for bicyclists. Collier County has already approved of a multi-use path east of CR-951 when they widen US-41. On May 27, 2008, the County passed a resolution supporting the River of Grass Greenway. For more information or if you would like to volunteer to help the organization, visit www.evergladesrogg.org.



Recipe for Good Eating

Cobb Salad

by Maria Rodriguez

(Chris and Larry Ammerman's daughter)



Shredded Lettuce	Chopped Chicken Breast (cooked)
Chopped Tomatoes	Bleu Cheese
Chopped Avocado	Black Olives, on top in center
Crisp Bacon, crumbled	Fried Onion Rings
Sliced Hard-Boiled Egg	Salad Dressing

On a bed of shredded lettuce, layer the remaining ingredients, ending with your favorite salad dressing.

This recipe is reprinted from "What's Cookin' in the Everglades," a Reach Out and COPS, Inc., project and available for purchase at Right Choice Supermarket, the Thrift Shop and City Hall.

Household Tip

Thanks to Capt. Judy Caseley for this email about our tip in the *Rapper*:

I saw in the paper the household tip on using dryer sheets to fend off swamp angels. I carry them on all my boat tours and even attach one to my dog's collar when the mosquitoes are really bad. When I am doing yard work, I usually have one hanging out of my pocket. I definitely think it helps.



Off the Shelf – Book Review

“The Life of the Skies” by Jonathan Rosen

Reviewed by Patty Huff

I've often watched birdwatchers at the Big Cypress Bend Boardwalk in the Fakahatchee Strand and wished that I had all the knowledge to identify the many birds they were observing. Slowly over the years I have learned a lot about our native Everglades water birds and our purple martins that have come to call 207 North Storter their home every winter. So, when my daughter recently presented me with the book *“The Life of the Skies; Birding at the End of Nature,”* I was eager to start reading about a world I know so little of. Jonathan Rosen lives in New York City and it is there that he grew to appreciate bird watching, mostly in Central Park. He argues that anyone, anywhere, can enjoy the avian life. According to U.S. Fish and Wildlife, almost 48 million Americans watch birds. This book is full of his personal stories of going out into nature with professionals to learn about the wide varieties of birds in different environments (he even traveled to Israel for some bird watching). This is also a history book about the people who devoted much of their lives to studying birds. It is well written and observes the effect humans have on the environment, attempting to preserve nature but at the same time destroying it.

In addition to this interesting book on birds, there are a number of educational books and material available in Everglades City at WinCar Hardware and the Gulf Coast Visitors' Center at the Everglades National Park (upstairs, above the Everglades National Boat Tours). One new book is *“Birding Florida”* by Brian Rapoza which contains accurate bird-finding information for the entire state of Florida including the Everglades and the Keys. An item for children regarding birds is a deck of playing cards featuring 54 different coastal birds.



June Fishing Report

by Capt Bill Lindsay

So far May has been so windy that a lot of us have not been able to fish our normal patterns. West or southwest winds have made tarpon and snook fishing with fly tackle almost impossible on the outside. Fishing in the backcountry has been OK; but because of the wind, lots of shorelines and points can't be fished. We need rain and southeast winds to bring the fishing back to what it should be at this time of year. Plug casters have been finding good snook fishing even in these windy conditions. Capt. Tim Brady took several large snook this week, using plugs in the backcountry. So for those who want to put in the time, it's worth it. The good news is that all this should change soon. I still think early summer fishing offers the light tackle angler the best chance for first class Everglades fishing.

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.

NO GAS IN FLAMINGO

Everglades National Park has announced that there is no gas available in Flamingo and warns visitors to be sure to fill up before taking the long trip down there. According to Superintendent Dan Kimball, the park has closed its gas fueling facilities at Flamingo due to a recent fuel spill. During the course of removing the fuel-contaminated soil, evidence of previous contamination was discovered. Until the contamination is removed and mitigation measures are in place to prevent future spills, the park has discontinued all fuel deliveries. This also applies to boats. The park hopes to begin mitigation and tank removal by June 27, and resume fuel-dispensing operations by August 1, 2008. Diesel fuel will continue to be available until the current supplies are exhausted.



Waterways: The Florida Bay Map & Guide

This free educational video, published by the Everglades National Park, is designed for all boaters who want to navigate into the backcountry of Florida Bay without running aground and disturbing the sea grass. A free copy of the Florida Bay Map & Guide can be picked up at 55 different locations from Homestead to Marathon and at all NPS visitors' centers. Copies are also available at the website www.nps.gov/ever. Click on "Plan your Visit" and go to "Things to Do" and then "Florida Bay Map & Guide" or phone (305) 852-0324, ext. 0338.

Florida Bay comprises one third of the area in the Everglades National Park and is visited by tens of thousands of boaters every year. According to rangers, over the past 20 years more boaters and inexperienced boat operators have visited the park with over 30,000 acres of sea grass being scarred by propellers. The ideal boat is a shallow water, shallow drafting skiff with a maximum length size of 17 to 19 feet. These boats have the least impact on the sensitive resources. However, even these boats can do some damage so the most important thing is to learn the waters; even the experienced boaters need to be attentive since water levels will change with the dry season and flats will be affected by storms and wind.

Boat operators should also have NOAA Chart #11-451, a compass, wear polarized sunglasses, and carry a GPS (although learning the waters is more important than a GPS). Channel markers may change or disappear after storms so use your eyes and look for the shallow water and your wake. Larger boats with higher horsepower motors often get grounded and create more problems when trying to get off the flats; rangers recommend that if you do get grounded, do not try to power out; call a towing service. Also, be courteous to other boats and anglers and keep a distance from the wildlife.

Boat operators who live here in the Everglades area are knowledgeable about Florida Bay and the flats; but, if you have a friend visiting or know of anglers coming to fish in the backcountry, it would be worthwhile for them to view this 15 minute video and definitely to pick up the free Florida Bay Map & Guide. A copy of the video will also be available in the Everglades City branch library.



LOCAL HISTORY

Miles City is hardly a city but that is the name given to the area at what is now the intersection of SR-29 and I-75 (Exit 80).

Miles was the second son of Barron and Juliet Carnes Collier. He was born in 1914 and at that time the family had its permanent residence in New York although Barron spent some of his time in Florida looking after his interests here. After Barron Collier's death in 1939, Miles helped to run the Collier Corporation with brothers Barron, Jr, and Sam and manager Norman Herren.

After World War II the brothers lived in Palm Beach some of the time and flew into the new airport in Everglades City for the day to attend meetings. It was thanks to Miles that the official opening of Everglades National Park was in Everglades City in 1947, bringing President Harry S Truman and other dignitaries to the town.

Miles and Sam were well-known in car racing and rallying circles, especially for the British MG sports models they drove. They were so fond of the cars that they set up the MG Sales Company to import the vehicles and founded the Automobile Racing Club of America which issued a Journal with Miles as the editor.

Miles won the 1949 Watkins Glen Grand Prix in a green car called the "Ardent Alligator". Sam was the first racing fatality at Watkins Glen, NY, race track in 1950 when he was leading the race in a Ferrari. Miles' mother made him promise to stop racing, which he did, but in 1954 Miles died of polio at the age of 40. The "Collier Cup" (formerly the Collier Brothers Memorial Trophy Race) is named in honor of Sam and Miles.

For more about the racing Colliers, see www.mgcars.org.uk/namgar and click on Featured Articles.

Broken

I just don't understand
 The world has come to an end between us
 And still you stand there like its nothing
 I let you in my life
 You took advantage of that and ripped me to pieces
 Didn't the past matter at all?
 All the memories and laughs we shared
 Were they for nothing?
 My feelings were easily taken in by you
 But just as easily thrown away
 When you look back I hope you remember me as the best friend you could ever
 ask for
 I hope you realize what a loss I was to you when your bad judgment got in the
 way of us
 Cause I'll be looking back
 I'll be looking back with tears in my eyes
 Falling for you
 Remembering the things we were
 What we could've been
 But now, what we never can be

This poem was written by Peyton Beebe as a school assignment. Peyton is a multi-talented 10th grade student at Everglades City School and will be contributing regularly to the Rapper.

MUSEUM NEWS



Students from Tommie Barfield Elementary School on Marco Island took a tour of the Museum of the Everglades and enjoyed the Tamiami Trail exhibit on Thursday, May 22, as part of their education on the history of Collier County. They also visited Roberts Ranch in Immokalee to learn about the early pioneers.

If you would like to schedule a group tour of the Museum, contact Tim England at 695-0008. If you would like to become a volunteer, contact Martha Schramm at the same number. The Trail exhibit along with the replica of the Bay City Walking Dredge will continue through the summer in the Pauline Reeves Gallery in the front room of the Museum.

The Museum is open Tuesday through Friday, 9 am to 5 pm, and Saturday 9 am to 4 pm.

Photo courtesy of Tim England



Glades Daze

by
Steve Huff

For Everglades' enthusiasts with a keen eye, the month of June finds a number of native orchids blooming in the mangrove backcountry. The Butterfly Orchid (*Encyclia tampensis*) is the most common. They are usually found on the skeletons of old buttonwoods in a somewhat airy location. Typically, they will have five to twenty bloom stalks with up to 30 to 40 flowers. The dry conditions we have incurred since January may have these tough little plants blooming slightly later but I have noticed that the bloom stalks are popping up every day. These beautiful gifts of the Everglades are amazingly prolific; if you look closely, you can see hundreds of these plants in a day. Native orchids of any species, of course, are protected and should not be harvested or disturbed for any personal use.

FLORIDA FLORA

by Patricia Huff



In the Everglades area we see an abundance of blooming bromeliads this time of year. This picture was taken along Janes Scenic Drive in the Fakahatchee Strand. Bromeliads are members of the pineapple family (*Bromeliaceae*) and are often called air plants. The ones native to Florida are epiphytes, growing attached to tree trunks and branches. Epiphytic bromeliads do not harm their host tree; they absorb the water and nutrients they need through their leaves from the air and from the rain that falls through the canopy and becomes enriched with nutrients along the way. They use their roots only to anchor themselves to the tree, not to absorb nutrients from it. Take a walk in the wild and enjoy the beauty that surrounds you.

SWAMP TALES

by Bob N. Wallace



My wife, Jane, has said on many occasions, "I always wanted to live in Florida, and now that I have lived here almost a third of my life, I still love it." She remembers visiting Florida as a child and seeing the Gulf of Mexico for the first time and how she wanted her daddy to move the family to Florida right then.

She has always enjoyed driving though the countryside of Florida, getting off the main highways, and just driving along seeing the Florida *flora* and *fauna*. She tries to count the different types of palm trees along the roads we travel.

She especially is fascinated to see all of the birds of the Everglades and is disturbed when the water dries up and the birds have nowhere to wade and feed. She loves to look for alligators in the canals alongside Alligator Alley and the Tamiami Trail. They especially like to come out and sun themselves on cool days.

Sometimes Jane spots the plume of a fire in the far-off distance and wonders about the safety of the animals in harm's way.

One of her favorite pastimes is to look at the clouds and tell me, as I am driving, what she sees in the clouds. Some are faces, some are animals, and some are plants or trees.

Sometimes she tells me she sees rain on the far-distant horizon in the form of a black cloud with the dark lines falling out of it reaching the ground.

Many times, she will ask me to stop to see things of interest such as the world's smallest post office at Ochopee or Clyde Butcher's Photography Studio, or the Trail Lakes campground where the huge replica of a Florida panther is on display. It is fun to visit the many Indian attractions along the way or to take an airboat ride out into the Everglades.

It is always beautiful to drive along the Tamiami Trail because the scenery is always changing. Where a fire scorched everything in its way only a few weeks ago west of Carnestown, there is new green growth. It seems like all is well along the Trail, with its new road surface on the way to Miami east of SR-29.

A lot can be said for just driving along the roads in the Everglades, but it is even better when you have a companion, such as Jane, to tell you all about it.

As Roy Rogers used to sing, "Happy Trails".



Rev. Dr. Bob N. Wallace is pastor of Everglades Community Church and a frequent contributor to the Rapper. He is the author of a recent novel *The Convention*, a suspense story about people involved in internal politics facing decisive moments in their lives. Copies are available at outlets around town or from website www.ecity-publishing.com.



Big Cypress Gallery Summer Lecture Series

by Patricia Huff

Summer is here and the days are longer and hotter. People often ask what we do here during these months. We still have lots of visitors, primarily from Europe and Asia and we relax a little bit from the busy winter activities.

Last week I enjoyed a visit to Clyde Butcher's Big Cypress Gallery, less than a 30-minute drive east of Everglades City along the Tamiami Trail. The gallery has been reorganized and there is a new, even larger display of Clyde's limited editions. As you enter the main building to the right is now Clyde's famous Florida landscapes, and a special room has been created to include the color photography of noted artists Jeff Ripple, Rick Cruz and Oscar Thompson. Clyde's "America the Beautiful" encompasses yet another section as well as his wonderful photographs of Cuba. It doesn't matter how many times I visit the gallery, I continue to find pieces that are new to me.

As a special treat this summer, the Gallery is hosting a series of lectures. Clyde will be kicking off the new Summer Series at Big Cypress Gallery on **Saturday May 31, 2008** at 1:00 pm. The \$25 per person includes drinks and snacks. To make reservations, call 695-2428 or email bcg@clydebutcher.com. Arrive early to visit with Clyde and see his new images. He will be available to personalize books and other items. The slide presentation will be a retrospective of how Clyde became a photographer and how that career path led him to Florida and into the conservation movement. The Big Cypress Gallery is open 7 days a week from 10 am to 5 pm.

Visit website www.clydebutcher.com for more information.



LABOR DAY WEEKEND AUG 30 - SEPT 1, 2008
Clyde and Niki invite you to attend their annual
Stuck - About

Everglades National Park Requests Proposals for Visitor Services

On Friday, May 9, the National Park Service (NPS) released a prospectus for a concession contract that provides commercial visitor services at two locations in Everglades National Park. The prospectus combines two existing operations into a single draft contract. The operations, located at Flamingo and Gulf Coast Visitor Center in Everglades City, both provide boat tours, canoe rentals and retail sales. Services that will only be offered at the Flamingo location include skiff rentals, houseboat rentals, mobile food service, tiki bar, bicycle rentals and slip rentals. Combined annual gross revenue for both operations in 2006 was \$1,848,975.

The contract term for operations at Flamingo is five years, and the term at Gulf Coast is ten years. The contract will require a minimum franchise fee to be paid to the NPS. The minimum franchise fee will be 2% of gross revenue for the first 5 years of the contract and 5% of gross revenue for the second half of the contract.

Site visits were scheduled for May 28, at the Gulf Coast District in Everglades City, and May 29 at the Flamingo District of Everglades National Park. Hardcopies of the prospectus are available upon request for \$50. Please make checks payable to the National Park Service and send to Cherrie Brice, Concessions Program, Southeast Region, NPS, AFC, 1924 Building, 100 Alabama Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30303. Please include a physical address (no post office boxes) and telephone number. Individuals obtaining a prospectus from the website should contact Ms. Brice to ensure they receive future responses to questions or amendments to the prospectus.

All contract offers must be received by Cherrie Brice, at the address above, no later than 4 p.m., on July 23, 2008.

Airboat/ORV Closure

Zone 4 airboat access within Big Cypress National Preserve is now closed due to low water conditions. May 23 began the 60-day recreational off-road vehicle (ORV) closure for this management unit within the Preserve. Pending water levels, it will re-open to ORV access by airboats on Sunday, July 22, 2008.

All other management units within the Preserve that allow for wheeled ORV access remain open until June 1. Beginning on June 2, these units will be closed for 60 days with access being re-opened on Aug 1.

The Recreational ORV Management Plan calls for a 60-day seasonal closure to allow a period free from resource pressures.

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Do You Continue to Have Pain from Shingles? (Postherpetic Neuralgia)

In most cases, pain from shingles recedes after the vesicles crust. Sometimes, however, the pain persists - this is a condition called postherpetic neuralgia. If you are 18 or older and had shingles more than six months ago but still have pain, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study of an investigational drug. Study drug and study-related procedures will be provided.

Please contact  **ANCHOR RESEARCH CENTERS**
A Division of Anchor Health Center
(239) 643-8805, Ext. 1, Briana
800 GOODLETTE RD. N., Suite 380, NAPLES, 34102

The MULLET RAPPER

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

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