

The MULLET RAPPER

What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2008

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Crab Season Starts!

October 15 has come around again and we can all enjoy our local delicacies, stone crab claws. Although the first harvest came ashore this week, crabbers have been busy all month setting out the traps.

According to Howie Grimm, the price is lower than last season because of the economy. Medium claws are \$8/lb, large are \$12/lb, and jumbo are \$18/lb. They are for sale at City Seafood, Triad Seafood, and Grimm's on Dupont.

Crabbers go out early in the morning to get to the open gulf waters when the sun comes up. We welcome the engine noise of the boats going down the Barron River. As Mayor Sammy Hamilton said last year, we can't complain; it's their livelihood and a very hard job. Stone crab claws have made ECity famous and we appreciate the crabbers.

CITY COUNCIL REPORT

by Marya Repko

After a moment of silence in memory of Larry Wood and Helena Brookbank at the start of the meeting on Tuesday, October 7, Mayor Sammy Hamilton said that "We are a small city but we're an important one. We are catching up with things that probably should have been done 30 or 40 years ago". It has been discovered that there is low pressure from Lee Cypress to ECity but the South Florida Management District has given the City a \$200,000 grant to fix that.

The Mayor reminded us that grass should be no higher than 10 inches. If it is not mowed within 10 days of a written notice, the City will have it cut and charge the owner. He said that commercial lawn services were a boost to the local economy and were doing a good job.

He also said that the County will collect "white goods" (fridges, freezers, washing machines) which are left by the side of the road but that householders should check with Lisa Marteeny at City Hall for collection dates so our town does not look untidy.

The Mayor announced that flu shots will take place on November 5 from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. in McLeod Park and that Chief Billy Cypress has generously offered to supply Thanksgiving turkeys to residents. Contact Dottie Joiner to order one.

And, finally, the Mayor was please to announce that the Shamrock Bank will start to move in to City Hall within a few weeks and will be open for business before the winter season starts.

On behalf of the Collier County Sheriff's Office, Lt. Mark Milligan reported that the only crime since the last meeting had been the theft of a bubblegum machine at Wooten's in Ochopee. He said that more patrols and traffic stops had been added. The Mayor complimented the deputies, saying they had a better presence here than in many parts of Naples.

Lt Milligan told the *Rapper* after the meeting that some fishing gear left on an unattended boat at Port of the Islands had been stolen. He said the incident is a reminder that we should not leave valuables where they can tempt thieves.

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Don't forget to fill in the form on page 11 for the new Reach Out area directory.
The DEADLINE is Friday, October 31 !!!

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2008

<u>SUN</u>	<u>MON</u>	<u>TUES</u>	<u>WED</u>	<u>THURS</u>	<u>FRI</u>	<u>SAT</u>
12	13 Columbus Day Hour of Prayer Everglades Community Church 7 pm OFGD Bd Fire Sta, 6 pm	full moon ● 14	15 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am	16 Copeland Civic Association 7 pm	17	18 Butterflies Volunteer Day see p.8 Naples Orchid Sale, see p.8
19 Missionaries Comm Church 11 am, see p.3 Revival Church of God 6:30 pm, see p.3	20 Hour of Prayer Copeland Baptist Church, 7 pm Early Voting starts, see p.3	21 Reach Out Comm Church 8:30 am	22 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am	23 SAC School Media Center, 3 pm	24	25
26	27 Hour of Prayer Chokoloskee Church of God 7 pm	new moon ○ 28 ESHP mtg City Hall, 10 am	29 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am School Early Release	30	31 Hallowe'en Party McLeod Park see p.3	NOV 1 Early Voting Last Day
2 Clocks Change	3 Hour of Prayer Holy Family Catholic Church 7 pm	4 ELECTION City Council City Hall, 5:30 pm	5 Ladies Coffee Backcountry Cafe 8 am FME Bd Mtg Museum, 9 am Aide to Congressman City Hall, 3 pm Flu Shots see p.8	6 Great Gators School, 9:30 am	7	8 Mobile Pet Vet see p.3
9	10 Hour of Prayer Everglades First Baptist Church 7 pm	11	12 Ladies Coffee Triad Seafood 8 am	full moon ● 13	14	15 Fall Festival School, see p.8

Nov 17: Big Cypress ORV Mtg

Dec 1: Snook season closes until March 1

Dec 6: Art in the Glades

Dec 15: FME Members' Annual Luncheon

THRIFT SHOP: Thurs, Fri, Sat, 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

SKATING RINK: Fri & Sat, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

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

SMALLWOOD STORE: Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon; 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: Fri, 10/17 (1-3 pm) Tues, 10/21 (9-10:30 am) Wed, 10/22 (noon-2 pm)

Mon, 10/27 (9-11 am) Thurs, 10/30 (9:30-11 am)

EARLY VOTING

Monday, October 20, is the first day of early voting in the national elections. The polls are open from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the old council chamber at City Hall.

See the Election Special on page 9 and the Election Tip on page 11.

CONGRESSIONAL VISIT

George Barton, aide to Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart, will be at City Hall on Wednesday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. to talk with constituents.

CITY COUNCIL

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 4, at 5:30 p.m.

TURKEYS

Contact Dottie Joiner at City Hall if you would like a Thanksgiving turkey, compliments of Chief Billy Cypress.



CANCER MONTH

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. For info, see www.nbcam.org.

See more Events on page 8.



HALLOWE'EN PARTY

Friday, October 31

McLeod Park

- 5 - 6 pm: Kids' Party (12 & under)
- 5 - 9 pm: Trick or Treat
- 6 - 8 pm: Cookout (hotdogs, etc)
- 9 - 10 pm Water Balloons

African Missions

Everglades Community Church will host missionaries Barry & Ruth Johnson on Sunday, October 19. Besides speaking during the morning worship starting at 11:00 a.m., they will present a slide show in the Fellowship Hall after the service. See the article on page 8 about their work.

Revival

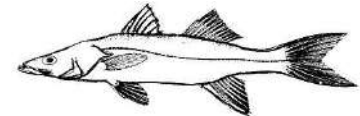
Chokoloskee Church of God is having a revival from Sunday, October 19, through Friday, October 24. The times are Sunday night at 6:30 pm, week nights at 7:00 pm. The evangelist will be Jeff Fowler, pastor of the Golden Gate Assembly of God. Everyone is invited.

OCHOPEE FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

- 10/02/08: Person Not Responsive, Everglades City
- 10/02/08: Person Fell, Plantation Island
- 10/02/08: Emergency Medical, 63m on US-41
- 10/03/08: Vehicle Accident, 60m I-75
- 10/03/08: Unknown Medical Problem, 66m I-75
- 10/04/08: Vehicle Accident, 72m I-75
- 10/04/08: Altered Mental Status, Everglades City
- 10/05/08: Vehicle Accident, Midway Campground and US-41
- 10/08/08: Vehicle Accident, 75m I-75
- 10/08/08: Heart Problems, Everglades City
- 10/08/08: Vehicle Accident, 66m I-75
- 10/09/08: Mental Health Problem, SR-29 and I-75
- 10/10/08: Vehicle Fire, 63m I-75
- 10/11/08: Unknown Medical Problem, 73m I-75
- 10/11/08: Vehicle Accident, 57m I-75
- 10/11/08: Person Not Breathing, Plantation Island
- 10/11/08: Person Fell, Everglades City

MOBILE PET VET

Dr Baker will be here on Saturday, November 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in McLeod Park, Everglades City, and from 2 to 4 p.m. in Copeland. There is no surgery on Sunday. For emergencies, phone her at 777-PETS.



SNOOK RULES

- 1. slot limit 28 to 33 inches
- 2. one fish per person per day
- 3. valid fishing license with current Snook stamp

TIDES FOR BARRON RIVER

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

10/17/2008	Fri	03:29AM	3.5	H	12:11PM	-0.3	L	05:53PM	2.7	H	11:56PM	0.9	L
10/18/2008	Sat	04:05AM	3.5	H	01:04PM	-0.2	L	07:03PM	2.5	H			
10/19/2008	Sun	12:37AM	1.0	L	04:50AM	3.4	H	02:03PM	-0.1	L	08:19PM	2.5	H
10/20/2008	Mon	01:32AM	1.1	L	05:51AM	3.1	H	03:11PM	0.0	L	09:39PM	2.4	H
10/21/2008	Tue	03:03AM	1.1	L	07:43AM	2.9	H	04:24PM	0.2	L	10:56PM	2.4	H
10/22/2008	Wed	04:43AM	1.0	L	09:35AM	2.8	H	05:33PM	0.2	L	11:47PM	2.5	H
10/23/2008	Thu	06:02AM	0.8	L	11:05AM	2.8	H	06:33PM	0.3	L			
10/24/2008	Fri	12:20AM	2.6	H	07:02AM	0.6	L	12:19PM	2.8	H	07:24PM	0.4	L
10/25/2008	Sat	12:47AM	2.7	H	07:53AM	0.4	L	01:18PM	2.9	H	08:09PM	0.5	L
10/26/2008	Sun	01:11AM	2.9	H	08:37AM	0.2	L	02:06PM	2.8	H	08:50PM	0.6	L
10/27/2008	Mon	01:35AM	3.0	H	09:19AM	0.1	L	02:47PM	2.8	H	09:28PM	0.7	L
10/28/2008	Tue	01:59AM	3.1	H	09:58AM	0.0	L	03:23PM	2.7	H	10:03PM	0.8	L
10/29/2008	Wed	02:23AM	3.2	H	10:36AM	-0.1	L	03:58PM	2.7	H	10:36PM	0.8	L
10/30/2008	Thu	02:47AM	3.2	H	11:13AM	-0.1	L	04:36PM	2.6	H	11:07PM	0.9	L
10/31/2008	Fri	03:12AM	3.2	H	11:51AM	-0.1	L	05:19PM	2.5	H	11:33PM	0.9	L

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SCHOOL NEWS

Everglades City School

phone: 377-9800 or 695-2561

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

IMPORTANT DATES

Mon, Oct 20:	Volleyball, JV, 4:30 p.m.
Mon, Oct 20:	Volleyball, Varsity, 5:30 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 23:	SAC, 3:00 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 23:	Volleyball, JV, 5:00 p.m.
Thurs, Oct 23:	Volleyball, Varsity, 6:00 p.m.
Fri, Oct 24:	Report Cards (all grades)
Wed, Oct 29:	Early Release



From Savannah's Eyes

I was in my yard playing when all of a sudden I heard a "whack". I quickly turned my head and saw a baby bird fall from the golf cart windshield. I ran over to the little bird and saw it's mouth open and close. I quickly called my mom and dad. They rushed over to look and my mom picked up the baby bird. My dad looked at it to see if it had hurt anything. He did not see anything wrong. But then my mom put him down to see if he could walk and all of a sudden he fell to one side. "Oh, no, his leg is broken!" I said. My mom was loving the baby bird because she knows what kind of pain it was in. I was sad because I did not want the poor baby bird to die. Then, all of a sudden, he flew out of my mom's hands and fell to the ground. My mom picked him back up but the little bird wiggled in her hands. Then he flew into a tree and sat there looking at us. And, he was opening his mouth as if saying "thank you". We watched him sit there for a while and then he flew into the air, as if his leg was not even broken. To be such a little bird, he was so strong!

Savannah Oglesby is in the 6th grade at Everglades City School and is a regular contributor to this paper.



3RD & 4TH: Cody Potter, Sindy Cifuentes, Logan Foss, Enrique Roldan



5TH & 6TH: Sierra Dungan, Lilian Pablo-Jeronimo, Madelyn Mitchell, Alex Thompson

Great Gators, September



Pre-K: Morgan Herrin, Trenton Mayberry, Ivan Kibodeaux-Aranda, Tyler Bruscini



K: Solomon Thatcher, Billi Wells, Jesse Goff (he won twice)



1ST: Destany VanLeeuwen, Kyle McMillin, Morgan Campbell-Salorino, Not Pictured: Madison Hart



2ND: Brandon Beaty, Natalie Thompson, Jerry Pablo-Ramirez, Jalia Chirino

with thanks to Trina Mitchell for photos

DID YOU KNOW?


October is National "Walk-to-School" Month.

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RESTAURANT NEWS**Backcountry Cafe:**

6:00 am - 3:00 pm.; Mon - Thurs
6:00 am - 9:00 pm.; Fri, Sat, Sun

Camellia Street Grill:

Noon - 8:00 pm; Mon - Thurs
Noon - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat
closed Sunday
Music and line dancing nightly

City Seafood:

11:00 am - 6:00 pm; daily

Everglades Scoop:

11:00 am - 5:00 pm; Mon- Sat

Glades Haven Deli:

6:00 am - 6:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
6:00 am - 9:00 pm; Fri - Sat

Grimm's Stone Crab (takeout):

8 am - 6 pm; Mon - Sat

Havana Cafe:

10:30 am - 3:00 pm; daily

Ivey House:

7:00 - 9:30 am; daily

Joanie's Blue Crab Cafe, Ochopee:

10:00 am - 5:00 pm; Wed - Mon
Live Music on weekends

Leebo's:

4:00 pm; Mon - Sat
noon; Sunday

Oyster House Restaurant:

11:00 am - 9:00 pm; Sun - Thurs
11:00 am - 10:00 pm; Fri, Sat

Right Choice Pizzeria (takeout):

5:00 - 9:00 pm; Thurs, Fri, Sat, Su

Rod & Gun:

7:00 - 10 am Breakfast; daily
11:30 am - 9:00 pm; daily

Seafood Depot:

Breakfast: 5:30 - 10:30 am; Fri - Sun
11:00 am - 9:00 pm; daily
Cabana Bash: 3 - 6 pm, Sat

Subway:

10:00 am - 8:00 pm; daily

Susie's Station:

11:00 am - 5:00 pm; daily

Triad Seafood:

7:00 am - 3:00 pm; daily

Right Choice Supermarket is now accepting Food Stamps. The store is open from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

**SEE MORE RESTAURANT NEWS
ON PAGE 8.**

Recipe for Good Eating "Bouncers"

by Marya Repko



A Dutch treat everyone enjoyed when I lived in The Netherlands was a wonderful toasted open sandwich with melted cheese, ham, and a fried egg on top; a sort of different version of Eggs Benedict with cheese instead of sauce. Called an "uitsmijter", it was traditionally served at the end of a party to remind guests it was time to go home (a "bouncer") but could also be eaten in pubs for lunch or any time.

Fried eggs must have been considered a luxury because the Indonesian restaurants, the equivalent of our Chinese ones here, would offer rice or noodle dishes as "*speciale*" if they had an egg on top.

HOUSEHOLD TIP

If you are getting "junk calls" from people trying to sell something over the telephone, you can subscribe to a "Do Not Call" list. The service is operated by the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Affairs and costs \$10 per residential phone line. For more info, phone 1-800-435-7352 or see www.800helpfla.com/nosales.html.

Angel of the Swamp

by Patty Huff



Brenda Brown is not only a mother of four girls and postal clerk; she is a "behind the scenes" good Samaritan who helps strangers and neighbors alike.

A recent incident which involved an elderly lady who became "lost in the Everglades;" well, perhaps not lost in the middle of the swamp but somehow found herself in Everglades City, not knowing how she arrived. She started out driving from her home in North Naples to her doctor's office (in Naples). She took a wrong turn and followed the road south until she came to a stop in a ditch in Everglades City. The lady was uncertain how to return home. Although it was late, Brenda was there and offered to drive the lady home.

Another incident involved a family of strangers who became stranded out on US-41 and SR-29, out of gas and no where to go at 11:15 pm (just after the BP had closed for the evening). On her way back from a late shopping trip to Walmart, Brenda spotted the family waving at anyone passing by. They were a family of two teenage boys as well as small children. The family informed her that they were on their way back to Miami and their GPS led them to the gas station at the corner; unfortunately, there was no way for them to realize that gas would not be found after 11 pm. Brenda had a friend in town that she "borrowed" the gas from in order to help a family in need.

Many people who know Brenda personally observe how much she does for others; whether they are in the process of moving or just needing a helping hand with cleaning their homes. Nicki at Circle K says that Brenda has "always, always helped others in need".

This is a friendly town and people do help people here, many of whom are visitors and strangers. This is dedicated to Brenda and all the other "angels" out in the swamp who lend a friendly hand.

RESTAURANT NEWS



On **Saturday, October 18**, Dulce and Carlos will once again open Havana Cafe in Chokoloskee for lunch 7 days a week. Dulce says they will have basically the same menu, including their delicious Cuban sandwiches and shredded pork dinners. Grouper will be served as a "special" when available. The doors will open at 10:30 am for lunch and close at 3 pm; they may have extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Welcome back, Carlos and Dulce!!



The Everglades Seafood Depot is now offering a full breakfast menu on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 5:30 to 10:30 am (lunch and dinner offered 7 days a week from 11 am to 9 pm). Breakfast includes omelets as well as many other items (any side at 99 cents). Owners Billy and Crystal Potter have been operating the Seafood Depot since 1997 in the historic old train station which was built in 1928. The Restaurant has been very popular with locals, many who bring in their own fish for preparation. The restaurant and outside tiki bar is open year-round with a "Cabana Bash" every Saturday from 3 to 6 pm.

More Events ...

BUTTERFLY WORK DAY

The National Park in Everglades City welcomes volunteers to help with the new butterfly garden on **Saturday, October 18**, at 9:00 a.m. For info, call Jackie at (305) 242-7752.

ORCHID SALE

The Naples Orchid Society annual plant sale is **Saturday, October 18**, at the Conservancy from noon until around 3:00 p.m. (or whenever the plants have all been sold). For info phone (239) 403-7155 or see www.naplesorchidsociety.org.

VISION GROUP RACE

On **Sunday, October 26**, Lighthouse of Collier, a new organization formed to support those with blindness and decreased vision, is sponsoring a road race and you can help. Contact Dr. Lisa McGarrity at (239) 732-9779 to volunteer as a helper or to run.

FLU SHOTS

Annual flu shots will be given on **Wednesday, November 5**, in McLeod Park and at Chokoloskee Post Office from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. They will be available in Copeland from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

FALL FESTIVAL

Everglades City School is holding a festival on **Saturday, November 15**, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. There will be live entertainment, face painting, games, and food (hot dogs, chips, drinks). Admission is canned food for their drive. There will also be a "cake walk" and the organizers are looking for people to donate home-baked cakes. To sign up, phone Candi at 695-2561.

BROWN BAG LUNCHES

Rookery Bay have informal lunches with interesting speakers on the first Wednesday of the month at noon. This series is just one of many events hosted in the Environmental Learning Center just south of US-41 on CR-951. For more info, see www.rookerybay.org.



African Missionaries

by Rev Dr Bob N Wallace

Barry and Ruth Johnson go to the most unreached tribes in East Africa. This is a call that began in 2000 and it takes them to volatile, primitive tribes that are unspeakably brutalized and beat down by neighboring tribes and to little children who have watched their parents being tortured, raped and beheaded before their very eyes. These remote tribes are so dangerous that few from the outside world are willing to go there.

This is an extract from an article that Ruth wrote:

In 2006 we crossed over the Nile River on an old, narrow bridge while Karuma Falls crashed over jagged rocks below us. Suddenly we had entered the Northern part of Uganda that had been ravaged by war for almost twenty years. Soldiers were everywhere. Bombed vehicles lay abandoned on either side of us. The atmosphere was thick with imminent danger. Now we were cut off from all possible communication with the outside world.

Each year Barry and Ruth risk their lives to bring a message of reconciliation and love to these desperately lost people in a land far across the sea who have absolutely no hope.

They will be talking at the Everglades Community Church on Sunday, October 19. You can learn more about this brave couple at their website www.lighthouse-of-hope.org.

LOCAL HISTORY

"Mother" Annie Mae Perry passed away recently at age 98. She was known throughout Collier County as a mid-wife and a local "treasure", an outspoken personality.

She was born in Monticello in northern Florida and married a local boy when she was 16. They moved to Copeland after World War II where her husband Willie Lee Perry was a logger for the Lee Tidewater Cypress Company. Annie Mae raised their five children, picked tomatoes, and worked at the Rod & Gun Club (where she met President Harry S Truman during the opening of the National Park in 1947).

She got her license as a mid-wife, a skill taught to her by her grandmother, and delivered 514 babies, all successfully although often in impoverished conditions. She also drove the bus to the black school in DuPont and worked in the canteen.

An interview with her will be shown on the Education Channel (20) **Saturday, October 18**, at 11:00 a.m. It is also available online for viewing at www.collier.k12.fl.us/EdChannel, click on Informational Videos.



MUSEUM NEWS

The reception on Saturday, October 11, for photographer Bruce Hitchcock was hosted by the Friends of the Museum and well-attended by many people from Chokoloskee. His exhibit, entitled "Vanishing Everglades", will be at the Museum during October.

The Museum is open on Tuesday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and on Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.. There is no charge for admission but donations are welcome.

Election Special

GUIDE TO AMENDMENTS & REFERUNDUM

Amendments to the State Constitution

No.1. Deletes the provisions authorizing the Legislature to regulate or prohibit the ownership, inheritance, disposition, and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship.

(Ramification: Voting yes may allow home ownership by illegal aliens.)

No. 2. Protects marriage as the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, and no other legal union that is treated as marriage or its equivalent be recognized as valid.

(Ramification: Voting yes would eliminate rights, including health, home, and inheritance, to couples living as common-law, such as elderly singles, and gay partners. Marriage protection already exists in the State Constitution, but all other family and couple structures would lose rights that support family values.)

No. 3. Authorizes the Legislature to prohibit consideration of changes or improvements to residential property which increases resistance to wind damage, and installation of renewable energy-source devices as factors in assessing the property's value for ad valorem taxation purposes.

(Ramification: Voting yes would allow home and property owners to make improvements to protect their structures against wind damage and also be able to add energy savers such as solar panels and cisterns without having these improvements used to increase the value of one's property considered for ad valorem taxes.)

No.4. Requires the Legislature to provide a property tax exemption to real property used as perpetual conservation easements and other protections as defined by law, and, to provide for classification and assessment of land not used for perpetual conservation, based solely on character of use. Benefits to conditions, limitations, and reasonable definitions are subject to assessment.

(Ramifications: Voting yes would allow tax exemptions to owners of agricultural and other land preserved for purposes of conservation, such as water resources, wetlands, and endangered flora and fauna protection.)

No. 6. Provides that tax assessment of working waterfront property used for commercial fishing, vessel launches, marinas and dry stacks that are available to the public, marine manufacturing, construction, and repair, commercial fishing facilities and their support activities, be based on current use.

(Ramification: Voting yes would allow commercial and public marine interests to have their tax assessments based on present use rather than that for which the property might be used, such as a condo development.)

No.8. Requires the legislature to authorize counties to levy a local option sales tax to supplement community college funding, requiring voter approval, and the approved tax to sunset after 5 years, and may be reauthorized by the voters.

(Ramifications: Voting yes will allow voters to increase financial funding for community colleges with the option to readdress funding in five years.)

Collier County Referendum

Allow Tax-Neutral Flexible Funding for Collier County Public Schools

There are two categories for funding CCPS: Capital Funding which provides for construction of all educational and related facilities, and Operational Funding which provides for all staff and related programs. This referendum would (a) reduce ad valorem taxes for Capital Funding by .25 mills, and (b) add those .25 mills of ad valorem taxes to the Operational Funding, for up to four years, beginning July 1, 2009.

(Ramifications: Voting yes would allow the CCPS to move funding from one category to another without additional cost to tax payers, thus remaining tax-neutral for a period of four years.)



FLORIDA FLORA

by Patty Huff

The Century Plant

Most agave plants are from Mexico and Central America where they are grown commercially for liquors such as tequila (distilled from the sap of the blue Agave tequilana) and mescal. The Century Plant (*Agave americana*), as we know it in this country, is grown as an ornamental plant with its beautiful spreading rosette of gray-green leaves (up to 6 ft

long). Although it is called a "century" plant because it blooms only once in its life time and then dies, it actually blooms in less time, around 10 years in warm regions. The bloom spike can grow as high as 25 to 40 feet and has many golden yellow flowers as shown in the picture.

Kurt Tuckerman who notified the *Rapper* of the spike growing from his plant on Chokoloskee said that his original century plant was in a pot until Wilma hit in 2005 when it floated across the yard where he uncovered it a week later from debris. He said "it was all beat up but I watered it and it started to spike."

Kurt reported that on August 16, the new plant "grew 2 feet in 9 days and ... sprouting the flower stalks." The spike is now approximately 12 feet high and is continuing to bloom. When the plant dies after flowering, small suckers will appear at the base and continue its growth.



Along the Trail

by Patricia Huff

Big Cypress National Preserve was established in 1974 and was the first National Preserve in the country. It is only one of 392 National Park "units," which includes all national parks, preserves, monuments, memorials, etc.

These are just a few of the facts you learn if you follow Lisa Andrews, the Outreach/Education Specialist, at Big Cypress. She is full of knowledge and excitement about the area where she has worked for the past 15 years. Lisa is responsible for S.W.A.M.P., a curriculum-based Environmental Education program with Collier County 6th graders walking through the swamp. However, it is not just a swamp walk; it's an educational seminar, full of fun and intrigue as the children learn about tracking Florida Panthers, collecting aquatic creatures with nets and then identifying each little critter, walking through crystal-clear water from the rainfall through cypress, pineland, and prairie habitats. The 6th graders will discover a "crime" scene at the end of their journey where decaying bones of a larger animal will be found.

Last week I was fortunate enough to be included in one of these educational trips (the 6th grade program will start in October). New employees of the area parks were given an orientation program to introduce them to Big Cypress and all its wonders. We started the day with an introductory talk by Lisa and afterwards watched a beautiful film of the Preserve with its wildflowers, aquatic creatures, cypress trees, and wildlife. We then drove to Kirby Storter Boardwalk and Lisa identified more trees and plants. It is an easy stroll on the boardwalk over the swamp where bromeliads and Spanish moss hung to the trees. Then off for great lunch at Joanie's in Ochopee before visiting the Turner River canoe access and H.P. Williams to see some gators. After a drive along the canal and around the dirt roads, we started on our walk into the swamp.

When you hang around town for a while and just travel to and from Naples, you forget how many adventures are to be experienced, all in your own backyard. Big Cypress will be starting their seasonal ranger-led programs on November 28 this year: canoeing, hiking, biking, campfire chats, etc.

See <http://www.nps.gov/bicy/> or phone the Oasis Visitor Center at 695-1201 for information and reservations.

Big Cypress Notice

Acting-Superintendent Pedro Ramos announced today that effective October 9, 2008 at 12:00 noon, the portion of Loop Road south of the Gator Hook Strand site and west of the Loop Road Education Center will be closed to vehicle traffic. This closure does not apply to landowners and their guests. The closure is warranted due to water over-topping the roadbed creating the potential for unsafe driving conditions. This portion of the road is gravel; the combination of water over the roadway and vehicle traffic has washed away road materials, leaving deep pockets in some areas of the roadway.

The paved portion of the road located west of the Preserve boundary and east of the Loop Road Education Center remains under a travelers' advisory. If travel along the road is necessary, the use of a high clearance vehicle is strongly suggested. The National Park Service strongly discourages travel along this section of the roadway for all but local residents and their guests.



OBITUARIES

Thomas L Wood, Sr (Larry), 70, passed away on October 2. A service at First Baptist Church on October 6 was attended by a huge crowd that overflowed onto the lawn, a tribute to this popular man who moved to Ochopee from Miami in 1969 and then to ECity in 1982. He had been coming to this area before that because his father owned a fish camp in the Fakahatchee. He drove every day for 31 years to Miami where he worked as an electrician. In ECity he was a city councilor and "Citizen of the Year". He was active in the Betterment Society and Booster Club. He leaves sons Thomas, James (Red), and Donny and grandchildren Dustin, Dwight, Tawny, Joey, and Jakey.

Helena Brookbank, 82, had a fatal automobile accident on October 6. A touching service in her memory was held on October 12 at Everglades National Park. Helena had worked in ECity School for many years before retiring. She and her late husband Harvey were active in the community, particularly the Lions. They leave behind daughters Pam Hilton and Patricia Whitley and sons Michael, Steven and Thomas plus many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Corliss Stokes Balkun, 60, passed away on October 9 in Chattanooga Hospital. She had moved with her husband Butch to Tennessee but leaves many friends and relatives behind in this area. Her granddaughter Brandy Stiltner died tragically in January this year (*Rapper*, 2/8/08). To leave a message for the family, see www.higginsfuneral.com.

Election Tip

It is the voter's responsibility to arrive at the polling place prepared with the necessary information to vote. It is against the law to inquire about, or discuss any candidates or issues on the ballot with Poll workers; political questions, conversations and intimations with others must occur outside the polling place.

You are permitted to bring your Sample Ballot, notes, and literature into the voting booth, but they must be taken with you when you leave. Campaigning and passing information to others within 100 ft. of the polling place is prohibited by law.

Save and mark the Sample Ballot you receive in the mail from the Supervisor of Elections. You may need it because there will be 6 Florida State Constitutional Amendments as well as local, state, and federal candidates from which to choose.

See the Election Special on page 9.

Early Voting:

Monday, Oct 20, to Saturday, Nov 1
City Hall, daily except Sunday
10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

2009 Everglades City School Yearbooks ON SALE for \$35 until October 31 (plus \$6 for name embossed on cover). Price after October 31 is \$45. 2008 Yearbooks available for \$30. 2005 - 2007 available for \$10. Contact Stacia at 695-2561 or see www.jostensyearbook.com.



Happy 2nd Birthday!

The *Rapper* is two years old. It was first issued on October 20, 2006, to provide local news after the *Everglades Echo* closed.

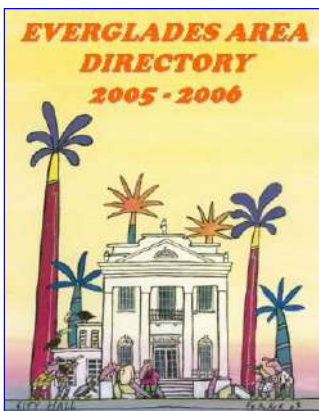
The name comes from the habit of fishermen using newspapers to wrap up mullet.

In April, 2007, the weekly *Rapper* was combined with Patty Huff's monthly *WHATS Happening Around Town* which had popular features such as "Angel of the Swamp" and "Off the Shelf Book Review".

Thanks to our advertisers, subscribers, and contributors for their support and to the public who faithfully put a quarter in the bucket every two weeks.

To advertise in the new Reach Out directory, call Carol Foss, 695-2277, or pick up a form at Everglades Island Properties. DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 31.

Fill in your listing info and drop this form off at City Hall or send it to Reach Out, P O Box 894, Chokoloskee, FL, 34138.



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Please do NOT leave furniture in front of the Thrift Shop or on the screened porch. NO FURNITURE IS ACCEPTED WITHOUT PHONING FIRST! If you have large items to donate, call Fran at 695-3320 or Helen at 695-3298. There is very little space in the Shop but Reach Out has a list of people who need tables, chairs, beds, etc. And ... what you leave out in front of the building just gets rained on and ruined.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Greet Visitors in Museum.
Meet people from around the corner
or around the world!
Phone Martha 695-0008.

REVISED SCHOOL WISH LIST

FOODS: pecans, walnuts, graham cracker crumbs, sugar, unsweetened cocoa, ground beef or turkey or sausage, shredded cheese (mozzarella, cheddar), parmesan cheese, eggs, butter or margarine.

KITCHENWARE (new or used): cake decorating utensils, cutting boards, mason jars (1 quart).

SUPPLIES: bib aprons (preferably white), dishwashing soap.

Thanks to everyone who has brought supplies to us already! For info phone Stacia Ferguson at 695-2561.

The **MULLET RAPPER**
What's Happening in the Everglades City Area

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We strive to present the facts accurately without political bias or personal opinion.
The views expressed in signed articles are not necessarily those of the editors or publisher.

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Saturdays, 9 am – 4 pm
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